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Ravens Coach Billick to speak at graduation

By **JOE LEE**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Baltimore Ravens Coach Brian Billick has been chosen to deliver the keynote address to this year's graduating students at the Undergraduate Diploma Ceremony on May 17, 2007.

"I am thrilled that we will have Baltimore's very own Brian Billick as our commencement speaker," Senior Class President Ex Pow-anpongkul said. "Not only do I believe that he will deliver an inspirational speech to the Class of 2007, but the Hopkins community will be delighted to have him due to his successes in past years."



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LSTARWAVE.COM

Brian Billick will speak at Johns Hopkins' 131st graduation ceremony on May 17.

When last year's senior class could not guarantee a speaker to deliver the 2006 commencement address, University officials booked Elias Zerhouni, the director of the National Institutes of Health. According to the Director of Commencement India Lowres, this year's "senior class had an earlier start. When they began their search they were newly elected senior class officers but still juniors — that

has never been done before."

"We started, I believe, a week after we were elected — sometime in May," Senior Class Vice President Samata Kamireddy said. "The '07 officers during the end of our junior year sent out an e-mail to the Class of '07 asking people to offer suggestions of who they'd like to have as a speaker. This list helped us create our list for the commencement office."

With the early start, the senior class officers were able to narrow down their selection of potential

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JHU alters internship credit rules

Administrative committee establishes one-credit limit

By **MITRA HESHMATI**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

After a year of discussion, the University's Committee on Independent Work has decided to place a one-credit limit on internships, while independent study and research may still earn up to three credits, the equivalent of a full course or 120 hours, effective this spring.

In response to student concerns over the current Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading of independent research, the Committee also decided to award letter grades if the research includes an "academic product" (a research report) that is evaluated.

Administrators insist that the policy is a cut above what is offered at several peer institutions like Duke, Harvard, Yale, Penn and Princeton, where credit is not awarded for internships at all.

"Several do allow some credit when the internship includes a component of academic work validated by a regular faculty member. Some take the middle ground solution and allow

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Car accident takes grad student's life

By **KATLYN TORGERSON**
and **CHARLES TSAI**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Eun-Jung Rhee, 27, a Hopkins graduate student who was beloved by friends, family and colleagues alike, died Jan. 10 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident on Dec. 28, 2006.

Rhee had been traveling in Florida with her sister, Eun Soo, a student at the University of Florida, and her mother Ju Hyun Yoon. Rhee's mother was also killed in the accident, which occurred on the Florida Turnpike near Miami at 1:30 p.m.

Rhee was a theoretical-particle physicist studying under Professor David Kaplan. In 2006 she was awarded the Department of Physics and Astronomy's Rowland Prize for Innovation and Excellence in Teaching. Graduate students in her department have suggested naming the award in her memory.

"I thought it was an inspired idea, especially given the fact that

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Trustees raise tuition by 5.9 percent for '07-'08

By **KENSING NG**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Emphasizing increased funding for financial aid and other student programs, the Board of Trustees has voted to raise undergraduate tuition by 5.9 percent, or approximately \$2,000, bringing the total tuition to \$35,900 for the

2007-2008 year.

The decision came following the recommendations of the deans of the schools. Increases ranged from 3.5 percent (\$20) for the Arts & Sciences part-time summer programs (calculated on a per hour basis) to nine percent (\$4,536) for accelerated full-time nursing, but tended to be between five and six percent. Full-

time Arts & Sciences and Engineering students will see a 5.9 percent increase, or roughly \$2,000.

"Our tuition increase request is based upon a number of factors including financial aid considerations, a careful analysis of fixed operating and current program costs and essential new initiatives in the areas of academic, support

and student life that do not have other funding sources," Dean of the Whiting School for Engineering Nicholas Jones said.

Some money from the increased tuition will go to the new Student Information System (ISIS) which will help students access personal information such as grades and financial services. Jones also noted that Hopkins is looking to enhance several of its services including health, counseling and security. In order to meet increasing student enrollment, Hopkins is hiring more expository writing lecturers, more teaching assistants and more engineering staff to assist in design-intensive courses.

"One of the complications here is that the cost of higher education rises more quickly than the cost of other goods and services, in part because it is so labor-intensive," Provost Steven Knapp said.

As a result, increasing costs may result in a further increasing tuition rates for the 2008-2009 academic year.

From 2002 to 2005 the Board of Trustees managed to keep the tuition increase under five percent. In 2006 the board voted to increase the tuition by 7.2 percent, bringing

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Maya Angelou speaks at M.L.K. Jr. Commemoration



KEITH WELLER/NEWS-LETTER

Maya Angelou speaks at the 25th Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration at Hopkins in the Turning Auditorium, Jan. 19.

University reduces Park punishment upon appeal

By **SAMMY ROSE SALTZMAN**
and **CHARLES TSAI**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

After weeks of fiery debate and student protests, the University has "substantially reduced" junior Justin Park's punishment for a racially insensitive party invitation, according to an educational rights organization.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act prevents both Park and Dean of Student Life Susan Boswell, who heard the

appeal, from commenting on the decision. However, Park told the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), which advocated on his behalf, that he was satisfied with the results, according to a FIRE press release.

Before the appeal, the University Conduct Board, composed of staff, faculty and students, suspended Park until Spring 2008 and also ordered him to read and write papers on a list of books chosen by the board.

Park said he was unclear on his future plans and whether or not he will return to the Homewood Campus. He plans to spend the spring in New Zealand doing an agricultural and horticultural internship.

In a note recently posted to the Facebook group "We Support Students Rights (JHU doesn't)," Park thanked those who supported his appeal and expressed his regrets about the situation as well as his hopes for change at Hopkins.

"This has been an incredible, eye-opening learning experience; and if it has resulted in one positive thing, it is the revelation of the underlying problems facing not only the Johns Hopkins University community, but our entire society as a whole," he wrote.

The Hopkins Black Student Union, which responded to the party invitation with passionate protests and demands for action, is now working with the administration to increase diversity awareness on campus.

Junior Fallon Uke, BSU admissions chair, said, "We're working on putting [initiatives] together



SHAWN FU/NEWS-LETTER

Justin H. Park attends a rally held in December protesting the University's decision.

Common to perform at Spring Fair

By **MARIE CUSHING**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Grammy Award-winning hip-hop artist Common will headline this year's Spring Fair.

"Common was one of our top choices from the beginning," Executive Co-chair Steve Farber said. He was able to contact Common's agency because of his work with them as the programming chair of this year's MSE Symposium.

"Musically, he represents the rare opportunity of hosting an artist who is both critically as well as commercially successful. He is widely considered to be one of the greatest hip-hop artists of all time, and it is an honor to host a man of this talent," he added.

"He's really university-acceptable. His songs are positive," Executive Co-chair Jon Bernhardt said.

a lot of hype. He'll have a new CD out around that time, and he's got a movie in a couple of weeks," he added.

Finding Forever, Common's seventh album, is set to be released in March. He also has roles in this month's *Smokin' Aces* and *American Gangster*, which will be released in November.

"With the concert happening in April, the timing is excellent," Farber said.

Common, born Lonnie Rashid Lynn, is known for songs that eschew superficial themes often found in more mainstream

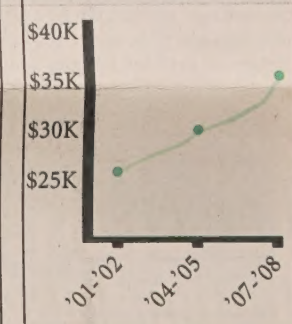


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Common will be performing at the 36th annual Spring Fair.

He won the Best R&B Song Grammy Award in 2003 for the song "Love of My Life (An Ode to Hip-Hop)" with then-girlfriend Erykah Badu. He received critical and commercial success for his 2005 album *Be*, which

Tuition Increases since 2001-2002



GRAPHIC BY WILLIAM PARSCHALK

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NEWS

Helipad proposal riles community

By KALYAN KANAKAMEDALA
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Union Memorial Hospital is waiting on a city planning commission hearing to begin the construction of a helipad on the rooftop of the Johnston Professional Building located on Calvert Street. The \$2.5 million project has met with opposition from the Charles Village Civic Association as well as representatives of other communities who are wary of the increased noise level and safety implications of an onsite helicopter landing pad.

Debra Schindler, Senior Public Relations Specialist at the hospital, said they are planning to have a helicopter flyover on February 3rd at 4 p.m. to satisfy resident complaints over the noise level.

Hospital officials believe that construction of a helipad is necessary in order to provide optimal patient care as well as remain competitive with other hospitals in the Baltimore metropolitan area. The hospital is not seeking designation as a general trauma center, which would lead to a substantially higher number of flights, so the primary beneficiaries of the introduction of a helipad will be the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Heart Institute and the Raymond Curtis National Hand Center.

Charles Village residents feel they have not been adequately informed about the new helipad and remain opposed to the impending plans. Community members are opposed to the helipad because of the dangers associated with landing and take-off



Controversy has erupted in Charles Village over the proposed Union Memorial helipad similar to this one at Hopkins' Hospital.

of the helicopter, especially because the buildings around the Johnston Professional Building are taller than the proposed location for the helipad. Residents who attended a meeting on Jan. 8 at the University Baptist Church in Charles Village were also displeased that hospital officials had discarded a potential flight plan because of feedback from Johns Hopkins University.

However, Dennis O'Shea, Executive Director of Communications and Public Affairs at Hopkins, has stated that "The university takes no stance on the issue and the university did not object to consideration of a Charles Street route."

Schindler confirmed O'Shea's statement.

Residents of Charles Village and even some University personnel are also curious as to why Union Memorial is not considering alternatives to building the helipad on Calvert Street.

"Union Memorial should build the helipad at the Eastern High School campus. This would eliminate any potential

dangers to Charles Village, and would also serve to decrease patient transit time," suggested Professor Moudrianakis, a member of the Biology department at Hopkins.

University students living in the area have also shown some concern over safety.

"It would be smarter to build the helipad at ground level a short distance away from the congested area surrounding Union Memorial," recommended Matt Naftilan, a junior at Hopkins who lives on 33rd Street.

Schindler is not aware of any alternative plans that the hospital might pursue.

In November, Solucient, a nationally accredited independent research group, recognized the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Heart Institute as one of the nation's top 100 hospitals for cardiovascular care. The heart institute at Union Memorial was the only Maryland hospital to receive this distinction. Dr. John C. Wang, chief of the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory at the Institute, has stated that having the ability to transport patients by helicopter directly to the hospital "can mean the difference, literally, between life and death." Staff at the Institute estimate that they will receive one to five cardiac cases per week by helicopter transport.

The Curtis National Hand Center features the largest hand rehabilitation center in the nation, and staff at the center regularly treat patients from across the Mid-Atlantic region.

Hospital staff believe that having a helipad will allow the center, which Congress designated the National Center for the Treatment of the Hand and Upper Extremity, to better treat patients coming from as far away as West Virginia, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Hospital officials estimate that the helipad will be used to receive three cases of hand trauma per month.

In addition to patient care, the hospital believes that a helipad is crucial in terms of recruiting and retaining quality physicians and staff. Union Memorial Hospital is one of five hospitals in the region that performs cardiac surgery. The others, University of Maryland Medical Center, Johns Hopkins Hospital, St. Joseph Medical Center and Sinai Hospital, all currently maintain and operate nearby helicopter landing sites.

Officials at Union Memorial have stated that a helipad will allow the hospital to become a destination hospital for cardiac and hand trauma cases from a broader region, thus allowing Union Memorial to remain competitive in terms of finances as well as personnel.

Seniors hope Billick bridges gap with City

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
speakers and submitted their choices to the Commencement Office ahead of schedule. The Commencement Office then sent out letters from both President Brody and the Senior Class President Pow-angpongkul to the prospective speaker.

According to Kamireddy, the senior class wanted a motivational and positive speaker. "Brian Billick, I think, is one of the best coaches out there," she said. "What do coaches do? They motivate; they inspire. [This is] exactly the kind of message we wanted to send to the class of '07."

However, many seniors have responded unenthusiastically to the announcement.

"I don't think he'd appeal to the student body here at Hopkins. We have a very driven and academic group of students here," explained senior Kane Kim.

"It's a stark contrast from Zerkhouni but I don't know if what Billick has to say will resonate well with the class of 2007. I'm sure the class could have aimed higher," added Senior Victor Crentsil.

However, Crentsil also pointed out that the selection may be seen as an attempt by the senior class to bridge the often publicly criticized gap that exists between the University and the city. "It seems like a nice gesture to build that relationship between Hopkins and the rest of Baltimore, in some sort of indirect way," he remarked.

"I guess it's good for Hopkins to get speakers who are Baltimore-related," added senior Esther Pak.

"While many members of the class of 2007 may be disappointed now, I hope that they will not remain so after his speech on May 17, regardless of whether or not they are NFL fans. I'm happy that the senior council chose someone of local importance and also someone who is different from the mold of past speakers," said Laura Hansell, president of Student Council.

Hansell also attributed the selection of the "not well-known" speaker to scheduling and funding difficulties.

"It is the tradition at Hopkins

that the speaker is not paid," Director Lowres explained. In keeping with tradition, Billick will be speaking at Hopkins without monetary compensation.

"The process of finding a speaker should not be underestimated and requires a great deal of time, preparation, and planning as carried out by the senior council," said Pow-angpongkul. "I find that in any case, however, it would be extremely difficult to find a commencement speaker within our limits."

Pow-angpongkul attributes much of this year's success in securing Billick to the "dedicated officers" of the senior class. "I truly believe that the class of 2007 is fortunate to have such dedicated officers," he said. "Working this past semester with the members of the senior class council has been a great experience, and I expect this Spring semester to be even more successful for the senior class council as we wind down to the last months of our undergraduate career."

The announcement came after Billick led the Baltimore Ravens to the franchise's unprecedented winning record of 13-3 and the American Football Conference North divisional title. The Ravens ultimately lost to the Indianapolis Colts, ending their odds of playing in the Super Bowl.

Billick graduated from Brigham Young University and soon embarked on a lifelong profession in coaching football. He was eventually named head coach in 1999 by the Baltimore Ravens, which had previously always ended the season with a losing record.

Billick has often been credited with turning the Baltimore Ravens around from a predominantly losing team to a competitive force in the AFC, leading the team to a Super Bowl Championship in 2000. To date, three former assistant coaches under Billick are now head coaches for teams in the National Football League.

Billick joins an impressive roster of previous commencement speakers including former Vice President Al Gore, comedian Bill Cosby, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, former news anchor Tom Brokaw and novelist Tom Clancy.

University defends latest tuition hike as necessary

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it to its current 2006-2007 levels. According to *finaid.org*, the average yearly tuition increase among colleges is eight percent. In 2005, Brown increased their tuition by five percent to \$33,888. The following year, Harvard saw a 4.75 percent increase to their current \$33,709 tuition. That same year, Yale saw a five percent increase to about \$33,000. This year, Duke announced a 5.5 percent increase from \$30,720 to \$32,409; however, they plan to offset the burden by increasing financial aid by 7.7 percent. Princeton has announced that they will not be increasing their tuition for the 2007-2008 year, although they will be increasing room and board costs by 4.2 percent, approximately \$1,780.

"I suspect there will be an increase but I am not sure at this time — without analysis — what its magnitude will be," Jones cautioned.

The tuition increase can also be blamed on endowment investment profits, which fall behind those of most institutions. Although Hopkins' 2006 endowment of \$2.2 billion made an 11.5 percent return last year, the endowment and its returns remain much lower than those of other universities. For example, Harvard's 2006 endowment made a 16.7 percent rate of return, Yale a 22.9 percent, and Princeton 19.5 percent rate, allowing them to keep tuition rates stable for the upcoming year.

At the same time, not everyone will be feeling the full weight of the increase. According to the Director of Student Financial Aid Ellen Frishberg, students can expect to see an increase in finan-

cial aid to help cover the tuition increase.

"I had assurances from the deans that there would be money brought to financial aid to offset the increase. There are times when we don't get everything we need, but we see ourselves as an advocate for students' basic needs," Frishberg said.

"When tuition rises, the cost of financial aid increases as well, and most of the funding for financial aid currently comes from tuition revenues. The deans are actively working on building up endowment to support financial aid for students who need it, so

that less of it will depend on tuition," Knapp said.

In the end, Frishberg said students can expect financial aid to help alleviate a large portion of this tuition increase.

"I don't think anyone who's on financial aid needs to worry," she said.

Students expressed concerns over a lack of clarity in the University's investment and endowment profile.

"I would like to know where the money was going before I made any judgment, but \$2,000 sounds a little extreme, especially considering the amount of money the school has gotten from benefactors in the last few years," senior Gerardo Serrano said.

Junior Alice Lee pointed out that she had seen several increases in tuition since she came to the University but noted that this definitely one was one of the larger.

"I'm really opposed to this increase and actually kind of intimidated," she said.

Early admissions rate drops with downward trend

By PATRICIA PUGH
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The Early Decision applicant pool this year was the second largest in school history, with 974 applications for the class of 2011.

As Early Decision sustains its popularity, the program's selectivity increases. The acceptance rate has decreased from 48 percent last year to 46 percent this year. This means that so far 447 high school seniors are set to be members of the class of 2011.

Early Decision has garnered its share of controversy. A number of notable colleges, such as Harvard, Princeton, the University of Virginia and the University of Delaware, have done away with the program entirely. Additionally, Yale and Stanford will switch from Early Decision to non-binding Early Action in 2009. Critics claim that it favors the wealthy for a variety of reasons, one being that lower income students cannot pay the steep fees for opting out. Students who commit to a college early will not be able to "shop around" for the best financial aid offer from different colleges. There is also concern that the ED pool may become so large that deserving regular decision applicants may be denied a place in the entering class due to sheer lack of space. According to Bill Conley, dean of Enrollment and Academic Services, the school anticipates an applicant pool (both early and regular) of about 14,700 students. This would mean that only 3 percent of all applying students will be accepted through the Early Decision program.

Schools can be tempted to admit students out of a concern for yield rather than a desire for attracting the best possible freshman class," John Latting, director of Undergraduate Admissions,

said. In light of this, Admissions works not to inflate the University's assets through overzealous promotion of Early Decision.

"We don't push it on students. We learned that [Hopkins] is very attractive as a first choice without us pushing hard on it," Conley said.

As such, it is still largely believed at Hopkins that Early Decision is worth keeping as a tool for students who sincerely prefer the University over all other choices.

"Early Decision encourages students to think seriously about their first-choice colleges, and allows colleges to focus on these students. When those students are offered admission the match is probably a really good one,"

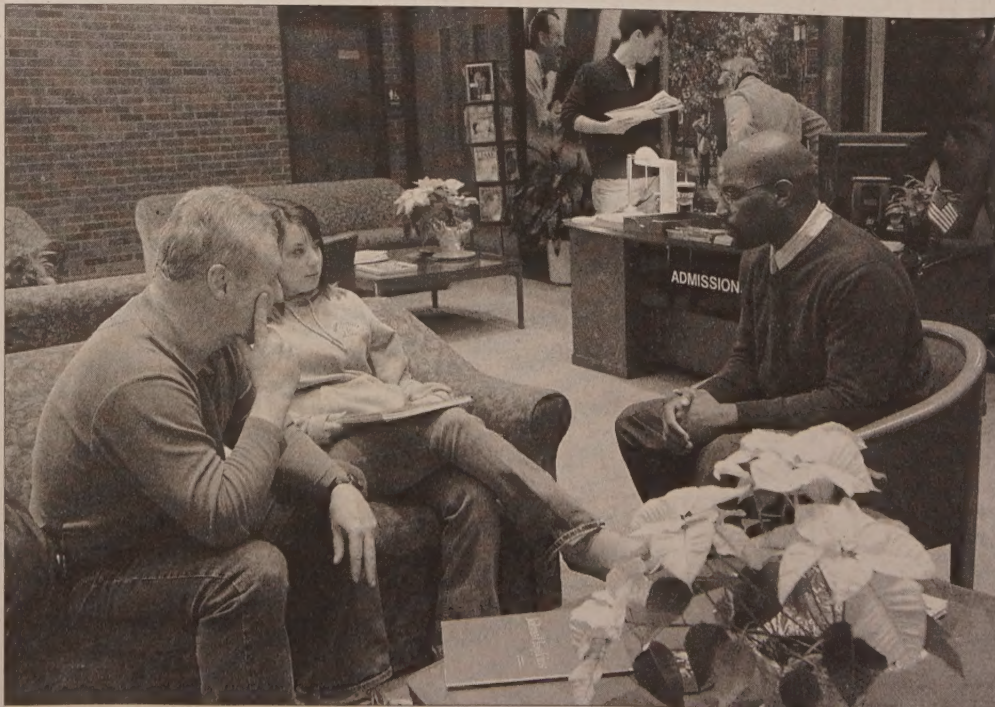
Latting said.

Many students who applied Early Decision seem to share in this idea.

"Johns Hopkins was my first choice, so it was a huge relief to find out I had already gotten in. I didn't have to wait until April to find out where I was going to college," Leela Townsley, a high school senior from Seattle who has just been admitted early, said.

Other students opted for Early Decision so that they could be through with the college application process as soon as possible.

"I knew this was the right school, so it didn't dawn on me not to apply Early Decision" freshman Samantha Zullow said.



Admissions staff meet with one of the Early Decision applicants in this year's competitive pool of prospective students.

LAURA BITNER/NEWS-LETTER

NEWS

Award-winning rapper to headline Spring Fair

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
earned Common four Grammy Award nominations, including Best Rap Album for which he is up against *Be* co-producer and frequent collaborator Kanye West.

"The most difficult part of making this come together was fundraising. There is no established budget from the school, so all of the funding has to be raised by the concert chairs," Farber explained. He also praised the Hopkins Organization for Programming (HOP) for their increased commitment.

"The HOP increased the amount of funding beyond what their group has contributed before. [HOP] decided to increase their commitment of the concert, and this extra funding played an intricate role in making the concert happen."

Bernhardt could not reveal the cost of Common's performance because the final contract has not been settled. "We have an agreement; it's just not finalized yet," he said.

Over the years a pattern of rock groups one year followed by a rap performance the next has emerged. Two years ago, Talib Kweli performed, and last year Hopkins hosted rock band Brand New.

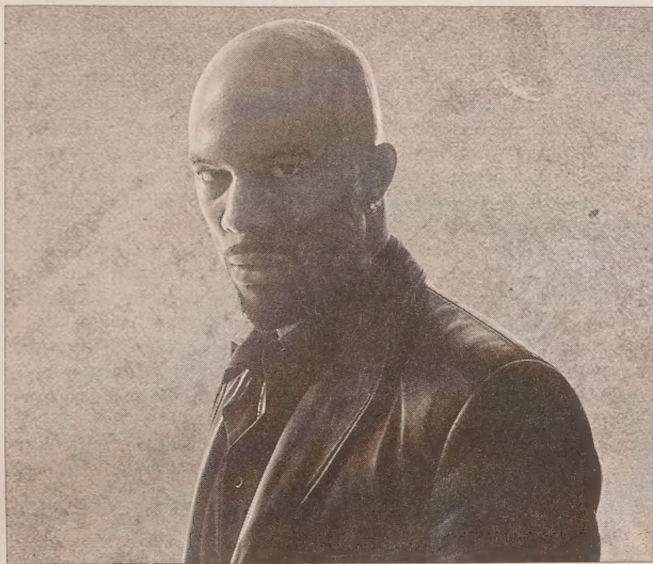
Farber explained the co-chairs decided that they would first look to rap artists, but overall, the top priority was hosting a popularly attended concert.

With a headlining act nearly set in stone, the next task is to find an opening act.

"We hope to get someone more nationally well-known than a local Baltimore rapper or act like we've had in the past," Bernhardt said.

The date of ticket sales and cost of tickets are not yet established, but Bernhardt said that tickets would likely cost no more than \$10 for students and \$25 for out of school, although the exact prices have not been set.

"We are making sure to hold a greater number of tickets this year for Johns Hopkins students," Farber said.



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Rap artist Common is slated to perform at this year's annual JHU Spring Fair.

Committee reevaluates internship policy

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internships to inform independent studies, which is permitted under our guidelines," Committee co-Chair and Dean of Undergraduate Education Paula Burger said.

The grading policy deviates from what is stipulated by the undergraduate department of neuroscience. Last spring, administrators decided to make required neuroscience research fall under S/U grading.

The committee of faculty, administrators and students outlined the new policy on awarding academic credit for internships and independent study or research, in response to concerns that credit is being awarded for activities that do not meet academic standards at Hopkins.

"While practical experience is certainly valuable to students, we, and the majority of our peer universities, do not grant credit solely for having an experience that is valuable," Burger said.

Since more organizations are now offering internships only to students who will receive academic credit for their work, the new policy is designed so the school can continue to facilitate these opportunities while still upholding academic standards.

"The purpose of the changes is not to make it more difficult to receive credit, but rather to make certain that credit is awarded only for academically substantive experiences. This is to the benefit of students, not to their detriment," Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences Adam Falk said.

"In fact, by clarifying the credit and academic component issues related to internships, the Committee thought that these guidelines would assist students in finding sponsors for their internships" Burger added.

The Committee also discussed quality measures and grading of independent research — the pass/fail grading of which

students reportedly expressed concern.

"One of the Committee's most challenging discussions, for which additional input from department faculty was invited, related to the difficulty of evaluating independent laboratory research and setting expectations for what constitutes work at a certain level. Inherent difficulties include students' clear expectation that they will almost certainly receive an 'A,'" the Committee's final report said.

Administrators explained that one of the major student concerns was the possibility of incurring additional tuition costs for the various forms of independent work undertaken during the summer.

Burger said the Committee recommended and deans have agreed to continue to allow students to register for independent study during the summer without payment of tuition.

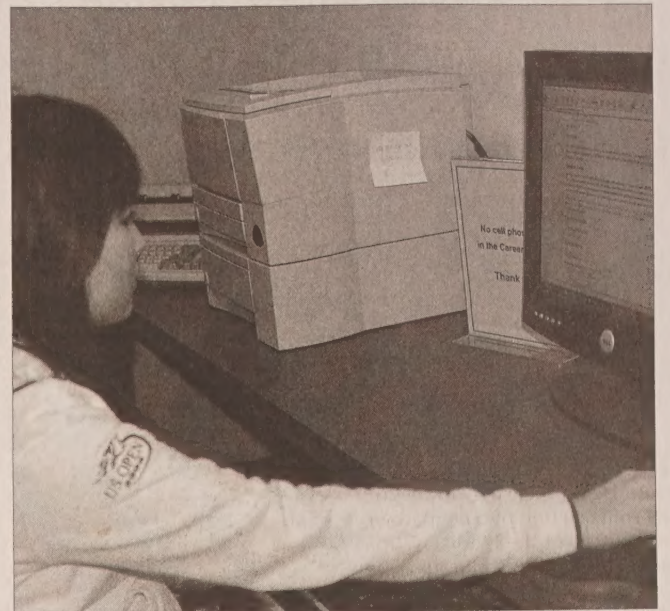
Students may still receive three credits for an internship if they register for independent study under the supervision of a faculty member, in which the internship will supplement an academic project.

Career Center Director Mark Presnell asserted that although credit may be awarded for internships, it is not a necessary component.

"What employers evaluate is experience. Employers, when they evaluate your resume, care what you do, not whether you got credit for it," Presnell advised.

Although letter grades may be awarded for independent study and research, internships may only be taken for one credit under pass/fail grading. However, if the internship is pursued as independent study with an academic component, such as a research paper, the academic project may be evaluated for a letter grade.

Some students are also concerned that they will not be sufficiently rewarded for their time



ANGELI BUENO/NEWS-LETTER
Junior Hanano Watanabe uses the Career Center to aid her internship search.

and effort, since one credit is only the equivalent of 40 hours of work.

"My fear is that making it only one credit makes it very difficult for students to do internships during the semester. I believe it is difficult for students to take five full classes and do an internship," Mark Goldwein, Committee member and undergraduate student, remarked.

"It's a lot of time you're putting in for very little credit. I think that three credits should be awarded, but that it should be pass/fail," sophomore Ashley Colletti argued.

"What Hopkins is trying to

accomplish is eliminating 'free credit' that doesn't uphold the strong work ethic that is necessary to earn A's at Hopkins. The option of pass/fail internships without a faculty sponsor would allow students to explore career options and still fairly award them credit," she continued.

However, in order to ensure the fair awarding of academic credit, the new policy stresses sufficient faculty supervision of independent work. Full-time tenure or tenure-track Hopkins faculty must serve as sponsors, although researchers and members of outside institutions may supervise the work.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE TO THE CLASS OF 2007

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Senior Portraits for the 2007 yearbook will begin on Tuesday, February 6th in the Hall of Fame Room – Athletic Center. It is important that you schedule your appointment now by logging onto Davor's 24-hour scheduling site, WWW.OURYEAR.COM, entering school code 705.

You can also call 1-800-OUR-YEAR™ (687-9327), during normal business hours, to schedule an appointment.

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NEWS

Angelou speaks on racism at MLK commemoration

By JENNIFER KLEIN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The university's 25th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. commemoration ceremony was held at the School of Public Health last Friday and featured poet, actress and novelist Maya Angelou, among other speakers including President William Brody. A major theme of the event was diversity and racism as enduring, significant issues in society.

Angelou began her speech by discussing the courage to love. She argued that courage is the most important of all virtues, as only with courage can one practice other virtues consistently. The poet emphasized that people often forget how courageous their ancestors were, black or white. She urged students to take responsibility for the space they occupy and to "look past compassion and see community."

Angelou also spoke of the racism that she believes is still prevalent today. She noted that our "Not-yet United" States is still much divided.

"African Americans are still the last hired and the first fired and remain the people who even the most liberal politicians joke about," she said.

Angelou charged all people with the duty of altering the world, and living life with compassion, humanity and class.

"JHU has not had a good relationship with the Baltimore community, especially in East Baltimore. People living in the area have felt like guinea pigs in experiments. There has been a legacy of distrust. The ceremony is a step in the right direction towards talking about issues of race and diversity. It also gives members of the community, black and white, a chance to see part of our culture," MLK Commemoration Chair Levi Watkins, Jr., said.

Watkins further commented on the strides the University has made in terms of racial diversity. Different eating facilities were used for blacks and whites, and black and white babies were treated in different areas in

the past. Though things have changed significantly, Watkins said that Martin Luther King's dream of black and whites being unified is "sometimes more of a nightmare or a fantasy."

Watkins, who was personally acquainted with Martin Luther King, was the first African-American to become Hopkins Hospital's chief resident in cardiac surgery. He began the MLK Commemoration Ceremony in 1982 after speaking at Harvard University's MLK ceremony. It was then, he said, that he realized the necessity of Hopkins having its own tribute to the legendary civil rights leader.

Watkins explained that Angelou chosen to be this year's keynote speaker because of her ability to captivate the audience with her commanding presence and words. Additionally, as Angelou's health has been in question lately, he hoped to give the community the opportunity to hear her again before she stops speaking publicly.

At the ceremony, Watkins also paid a tribute to Coretta Scott King, who died on Jan. 31, 2006. In the form of a "celestial phone call," he spoke to King and thanked for all the work she had accomplished in continuing her husband's activism and helping the poor and disenfranchised. Reverend Uwe C. Scharf, director of the Department of Pastoral Care at the Hopkins Hospital, also spoke at the ceremony. Scharf stressed the importance of carrying on Martin Luther King's policy of peace, nonviolence, and clear resistance. He argued that today, especially, we should strive to be agents of peace in a world where there is not only violence in the Middle East and Far East but also here at home on the East side of Baltimore.

Watkins also made mention of the recent Sigma Chi controversy that took place on Homewood campus. Also included in the ceremony was the presentation of awards to employees at Hopkins who have helped the community. Brody was presented with the Ideals Award because of how he has dealt with diversity issues at Homewood campus.

The 78-year-old keynote speaker has won many prodigious awards for her achievements. Angelou was been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for her collection of poems entitled, "Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'Fore I Die" and an Emmy for her role in "Roots." She won a Grammy Award for her reading of the poem "On the Pulse of Morning" at President Clinton's inauguration.

"[Angelou's] speech was really inspirational, not only in regard to race but also her outlook on life," said freshman Leyla Isik.

In the past, several high-profile individuals have been keynote speakers, including Rosa Parks, Stevie Wonder, Jesse Jackson, John Lewis, Coretta Scott King and James Earl Jones.

Donta Allen sentenced to life for Trinh murder

By XIAO-BO YUAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The tragic saga of the death of Linda Trinh, the 21-year-old Hopkins senior slain in her apartment two years ago, has finally drawn to a close, as the man who plead guilty to killing her was officially sentenced to life in prison on Jan. 8.

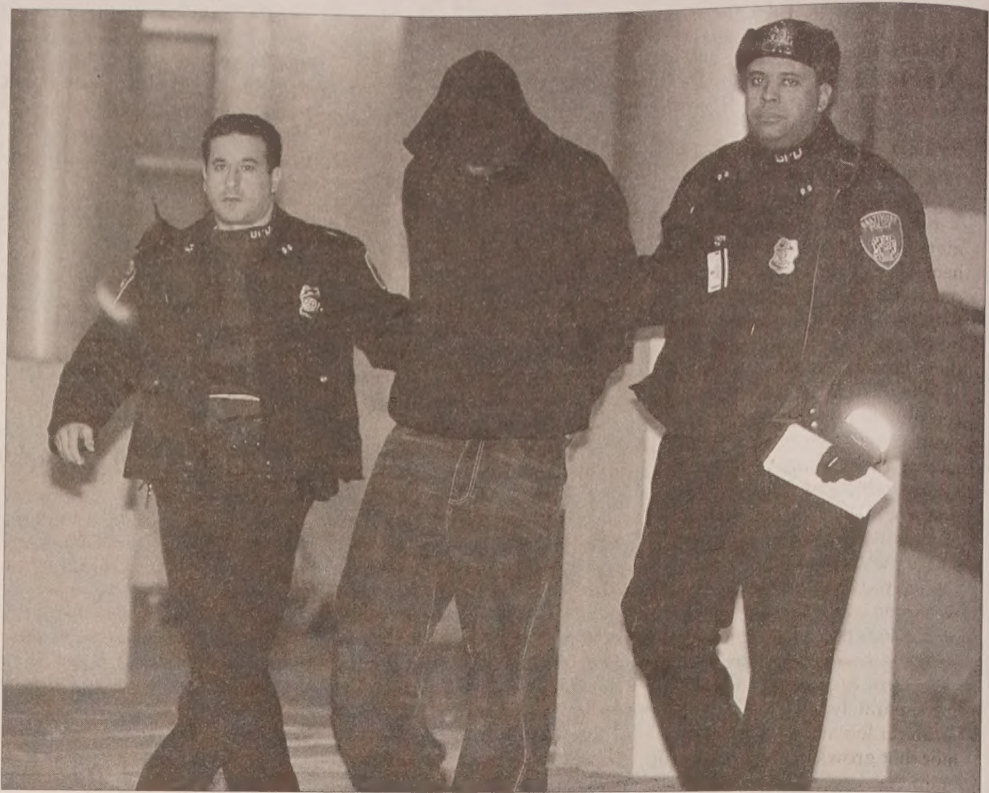
Under a plea agreement struck with prosecutors last November, Donta M. Allen, 28, will be eligible for parole in the future, after a period of 11.5 years and only with permission from the governor, according to Maryland state law. Prosecutor Matthew Fraling, however, expects Allen to serve for 50-60 years before that possibility appears.

During his sentencing hearing, Allen admitted to Judge Roger Brown and Trinh's attendant family members that he felt remorse for his actions, several local news sources reported.

A Baltimore native who socialized with Trinh's Alpha Phi sorority sisters and worked at restaurants in the area, Allen had entered Trinh's apartment on the day of her death, intending to steal money from what he thought was a vacated home. Instead, Trinh confronted him and a physical altercation resulted, during which Allen beat and finally strangled Trinh.

"I took away something that was far better than I am," Allen said during his hearing, and apologized to Trinh's family members for their loss.

According to his defense attorney Warren A. Brown, his client's remorse — coupled with abundant physical evidence, including DNA samples, that linked Allen to the murder — was a crucial factor that led Allen to enter a guilty plea.



Shown here during his arrest in 2005, Donta Allen was sentenced to life in prison this month for the murder of Linda Trinh.

"The evidence was overwhelming, and he was overwhelmed with grief," Brown told the *News-Letter* last November, after the plea agreement had been publicly announced. "He was sorry that he took someone's life."

Brown also added that killing Trinh had not been Allen's original intent. "He didn't wake that morning thinking he would kill somebody," he said.

Fraling told the court at Allen's sentencing hearing that "cowardice" had led him to attack Trinh, a slight woman who was easily physically overpowered by her

intruder. That same quality, the prosecutor added, allowed Allen to take advantage of much younger Hopkins students, many of whom referred to him in private as "Mr. Sketchy."

Despite a strong case against Allen, Fraling said that he decided not to pursue a criminal trial and agreed to a plea bargain in order to avoid a lengthy procedure that would worsen the strain on Trinh's family.

The victim's family and friends expressed their continued shock and devastation at the sentencing hearing. Quang Trinh, the victim's brother, told

the court that he didn't understand why Allen had been granted a plea deal.

"My life has been forever changed by the heinous acts of this evil individual," Quang said.

Statements from Trinh's family and friends, including several of her Hopkins classmates, emphasized her hope to help others through medicine.

Trinh, who had been a biomedical engineering major, spent the summer before her death in Vietnam to study the effects of breast cancer and HIV/AIDS on underprivileged populations.

New funding could boost stem-cell studies

By MARIE CUSHING
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

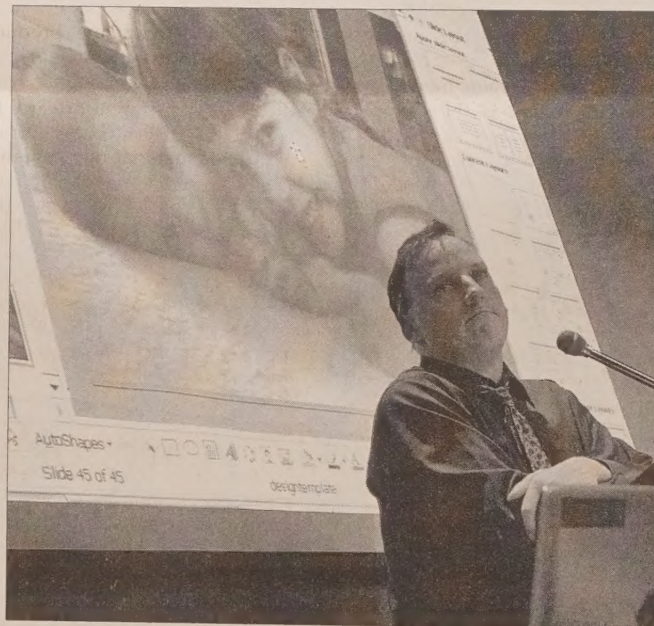
Stem cell research at Hopkins may see a boost in funding thanks to a bill passed by the House of Representatives to increase federal funding and \$15 million allotted by the state of Maryland to fund stem cell research projects.

The federal bill would allow scientists to receive federal funding to research using stem cells from otherwise-discarded fertility clinic embryos.

"It's a great first step towards expanding the president's policy," said Beth Felder, the director of federal relations for John Hopkins Institutions. Felder, however, sees the bill as merely a "symbolic victory. The President's going to veto it again. It's a widely held belief. Although the Senate might be veto proof, the House would never have enough votes."

The bill passed in the House with a vote of 253 to 174, falling short of the two-thirds majority necessary to override it.

According to a statement re-



Douglas Kerr's stem cell research allowed him to make paralyzed rats walk.

leased by the White House, President Bush, who used his first veto to reject an identical version of the current bill in July of last year, will veto the bill if it passes the Senate. The statement said the bill "would use federal taxpayer dollars to support and encourage the destruction of human life for research."

Federal funding currently goes only to scientists who use stem cells from an established set of 22 cell lines after a 2001 executive order. This has led many states, including Maryland, to provide their own funding for research.

The \$15 million earmarked by Governor Robert Ehrlich and the General Assembly matches the current amount the federal government allots out of the \$25 billion it sets aside for scientific research. The Maryland funding, however, does not make any restrictions on research.

"We're really excited about this grant, because it allows us to do things the federal government can't or won't fund," Elias Zambidis, an assistant professor at the school of medicine, told the *Baltimore Sun*. If his grant proposal is selected, Zambidis will use the funds to study if embryonic stem cells can treat congenital blood disease.

According to the *Sun* article, Hopkins researchers submitted 50 proposals for funding to the Maryland Stem Cell Commission, which will check the completeness of the proposals before having out

of state scientists determine which projects rate highest. Funds are available for new projects, which can receive up to \$100,000, or up to \$500,000 for projects that are already established.

Controversy over stem cell research exists because creation of a stem cell line currently requires destruction of the embryo or cloning. Opponents voice concern over the destruction of potential human life and potential for eugenics that arises from cloning, while proponents of stem cell research point to the potential lives that can be saved and the fact that these embryos would be otherwise discarded.

The search for viable alternatives to embryonic stem cells has had some success, with a group of Massachusetts researchers announcing in August of 2006 that they had extracted stem cells from an embryo without damaging the embryo.

In 2003, scientists at the National Institutes of Health discovered adult stem cells in the baby teeth of children.

This month, researcher scientists at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine were able to isolate stem cells from amniotic fluid. Scientists, however, question the usefulness of such cells.

"I would seriously be surprised if they have all the potential of an embryonic stem cell," Paul Fishman, director of research at the University of Maryland School of Medicine's Department of Neurology, told the *Sun*.

Faculty and friends mourn Rhee

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

that EJ had won the award just last spring. She was a popular — and effective — teaching assistant in undergraduate courses," Jonathan Bagger, chair of the department of physics and astronomy, said.

Rhee was successful in her academic work, studying new possible decays of the Higgs particle in supersymmetric theories. The title of her first paper with Kaplan was "Reduced fine-tuning in supersymmetry with R-parity violation."

"By the end of our first project, she was editing my writing — making it more succinct and to the point," Kaplan said.

Rhee's friends describe her as warm and lovely to the people around her, and intelligent and responsible in her work.

"One day, I asked her if she 'really' wanted to be a physicist and she immediately answered, 'Yes, it's been my dream since I was young.' I was very proud of her pursuing her dream very successfully," Kiju Lee, a close friend of Rhee's, said.

"She was a wonderful person. She was very easy-going and had a great sense of humor," said Andrew Blechman, another friend and colleague of Rhee's.

Rhee's colleagues recognized how she brought her personality to the classroom, enabling her to be a successful teacher.

"She had a lot of students coming to her, and she was always ready to help them out, explaining things several times if necessary, showing tremendous patience and care," Blechman said.

Rhee had many other pleasures outside of academics.

"She enjoyed taking photos with her camera and drinking wine. Above all other things, she loved cooking. She always tried new recipes and sometimes called me to taste them," Lee recalled.

"She seemed to have many interests in life — she was an amateur photographer and hoped to be a filmmaker later in life. She loved to travel," Kaplan said.

A memorial in Rhee's honor will be held on Sat., Jan. 21, at 10 a.m. at the Bunting-Meyerhoff Interfaith Center.



COURTESY OF ZUHAIR KAREEM
Pulitzer Prize winner Maya Angelou spoke at this year's MLK ceremony.

Sigma Chi Fraternity probation not appealed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
and we're talking with and giving ideas to the administration. ... We're trying to make something happen that will be beneficial for the entire campus community."

She encouraged students to learn from what happened: "We [should] all examine ourselves and ... make sure that we're making good efforts to our great campus community."

FIRE has been following Park's story since the notorious party in October, and though the organization was pleased at the reduced sentence, they worry that any such punishment threatens free speech on college campuses.

"Over the past year, Johns Hopkins has shown a complete disregard for basic rights," FIRE President Greg Lukianoff said in a press release on Jan. 8.

"The university's treatment of Justin Park ... was simply unconscionable. In the coming year, FIRE will be watching Hopkins closely to see if it lives up to its promises of free speech and open inquiry."

Sanctions placed on the Sigma Chi Fraternity were not appealed. The Conduct Board placed the fraternity on social probation un-

til January 2008, ordered them to add four adult advisors — two alumni and two non-alumni — to hold four cultural events and to add a diversity education program to its new members program. After the probation ends they are required to follow the University's party registration procedure in the future.

"[Sigma Chi] has made some progress. They held their first event back in December; they did a concert with Peabody featuring artists from various ethnicities and backgrounds. There was a good turnout from Peabody, and they advertised with the student population," Rob Turning, director of Greek Life, said.



Sigma Chi members rally in a show of support for ousted brother Justin Park.

SCIENCE

Scientists mix heart drug, fetal toxin to treat cancer

By SHIVAANI PRAKASH
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Researchers at the Johns Hopkins Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center have recently described a new method for obliterating brain cancer cells by using a surprising combination of drugs.

When the Cancer Center team combined lovastatin, a therapeutic agent commonly used to lower cholesterol levels, with cyclopamine, they noticed an impressive reduction in the number of medulloblastoma cells in a tissue culture.

Together, the two treatments were able to eliminate 63 percent of medulloblastoma cells, compared with between 15 and 20 percent of cancer cells when acting separately.

Medulloblastoma is a solid tumor that grows in the back of the brain between the brainstem and cerebellum. It is the most common brain tumor found in pre-adolescent children, especially those between the ages of four and eight.

Current therapies for medulloblastoma are highly toxic and only minimally effective in treating the cancer. For children less than three years old, the prognosis is usually very poor.

Cyclopamine was first recognized in the 1950s as a powerful teratogen, a toxin that causes fetal and birth defects by causing severe damage to chromosomes in developing tissues. The name "cyclopamine" refers to the sheep born with one eye on a pasture contaminated with the toxin in the late 1950s.

Recently, cyclopamine has been recognized as an effective anti-cancer agent after it was observed to actively block the necessary cell proliferation pathways in various cancers.

The Hopkins researchers believe that the cyclopamine-lovastatin treatment was effective due to its disruption of the cell growth cycle. Cancer is primarily characterized by unchecked cell division and growth.

Specifically, cyclopamine is thought to block the "hedgehog" pathway, a cellular pathway known to direct excessive cell reproduction. By blocking this pathway, cyclopamine weakens cancerous cells, allowing them to be targeted by lovastatin.

Although lovastatin is known to effectively reduce blood cholesterol levels by stimulating cholesterol uptake into the liver, there is also evidence that it is able to protect proteins that encourage cancer cells to undergo programmed cell death, known as apoptosis.

The therapeutic value of statins in treating melanoma, a deadly skin cancer, is also being studied.

The Hopkins team found a link between the genes related to the cell growth pathway in the medulloblastoma cells and other known cancerous cell signals. One such signal is Bcl-2, which is associated with a type of lymphoma. Bcl-2 is overproduced by cancerous cells in order to prevent cell death.

As scientists explored the link between Bcl-2 production and the hedgehog cycle, it became apparent that cyclopamine blocked

both processes, causing tumor cells to eventually die.

Although the combination of cyclopamine and lovastatin has not been tested in animal models or in a clinical setting, the Cancer Center team is optimistic that the complementary actions of these drugs will successfully kill tumor cells in young patients.

The research team was led by Charles Eberhart, M.D., Ph.D., an associate professor of pathology, ophthalmology and oncology.

The research was funded by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke and will be published in the January issue of the *American Journal of Pathology*.

Explainer: cancer and sonic hedgehog

Development of an embryo depends on a precisely orchestrated series of steps. Each tissue must develop in a particular way, at a particular time and place. Every cell line needs to divide and mature until there are just enough cells of that type, and then cell division needs to slow down to sustain healthy tissue. Cancers occur when this last step fails.

One of the chief conductors of this process is the hedgehog pathway, named for the spiky appearance of fruit flies that lack the hedgehog protein. Vertebrates have three closely related hedgehog proteins called sonic hedgehog, desert hedgehog and Indian hedgehog. The three operate in a complex choreography of time and place to control almost all aspects of vertebrate embryonic development.

Hedgehog serves as an all-purpose activator of cell division pathways, pushing the progenitor cells in which it is expressed to continue dividing and maturing. It operates by activating a variety of downstream genes that con-

trol the cell cycle and specific traits, such as the development of hair follicles in mammals or of wings in flies, depending on where and when it is expressed.

Because it can be secreted to neighboring cells, it also controls patterns in the development of tissues, such as the appearance of two symmetric sides of a body. These patterns can be quite complex: sonic hedgehog is responsible almost single-handedly for directing the folding of the neural tube, which becomes the brain and spinal cord in vertebrates.

When these proteins are aberrantly expressed after they are needed, cell lines grow out of control. At least one cancer, medulloblastoma, has been linked conclusively to alterations in the hedgehog signaling pathway. In these patients, sonic hedgehog continues to be active in the brainstem for the first several years of life, causing extensive proliferation of native stem cells that are the progenitors of mature neurons in that area.

APL satellites speed past the Moon on the way to the Sun

By STEPHEN BERGER
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The twin STEREO spacecraft, part of a Sun-observing mission designed and launched by the JHU Applied Physics Laboratory for NASA, have each completed a flyby of the moon and are now on their way to their final solar orbits.

The lunar flybys, which occurred Dec. 15 and 21, were intended to alter the orbital trajectory of the two observatories.

STEREO, which stands for Solar Terrestrial Relations Observatory, is an APL mission designed to take the most detailed images of the Sun to date. The two observatories launched on the same rocket on Oct. 25, 2006.

The mission uses two satellites in slightly offset orbits to achieve an effect similar to binocular vision in humans. The resulting solar images will be three-dimensional.

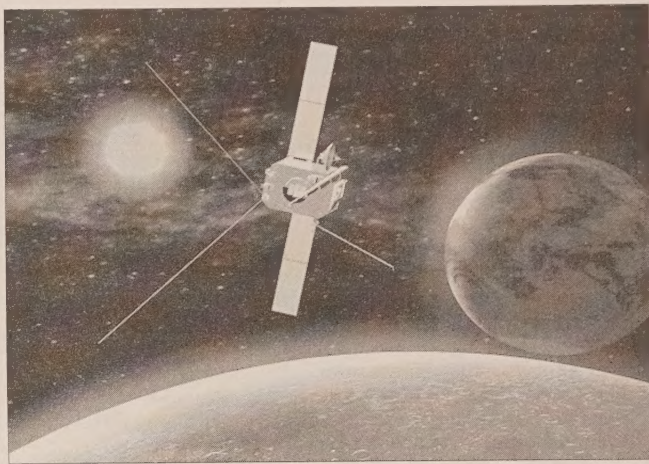
A lunar flyby, or gravitational assist, causes a slight increase in the momentum of a spacecraft, allowing it to change directions

and gain speed with minimal fuel expenditure. In accordance with Newton's laws, the moon or planet actually loses a corresponding quantity of momentum, but the effect on its orbit is negligible.

One of the two STEREO observatories is now orbiting the Sun slightly "behind" Earth, while the other is now slightly "ahead" of Earth due to the flyby. These positions will be maintained for the next several years.

A similar gravitational assist is planned for the New Horizons satellite, also a joint venture between NASA and APL. The satellite, which is on its way to make the first detailed observations of Pluto and other Kuiper Belt objects, will perform a flyby of Jupiter on Feb. 28, 2007, gaining over 9,000 miles per hour on its way to the outer reaches of the solar system.

The first major round of images from the two STEREO observatories is expected in April 2007, as the satellites settle into their final orbits around the Sun.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.NASA.GOV](http://www.nasa.gov)
Computer-generated image of one of the STEREO observatories during its flyby of the Moon.

Science in the news: Ethanol as an alternative energy source

By STEPHEN BERGER
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

In his State of the Union address this week, President Bush called for an increased investment in novel energy sources, arguing that "the way forward is through technology." Specifically, he declared, "We must continue investing in new methods of producing ethanol — using everything from wood chips, to grasses, to agricultural wastes."

Politicians of all political stripes have come to embrace ethanol as a non-petroleum fuel source for a variety of reasons. Economics, the environment and national security are all frequently offered

as justifications for promoting ethanol use, and all three of these reasons have some merit.

But where is the technology right now, and how much of an environmental benefit would ethanol actually have if it were adopted today?

Ethanol is one of the simplest fuel sources available from a chemical standpoint. Unlike gasoline, which consists of a mixture of dozens of complex hydrocarbons and additives, ethanol is a pure solution containing just a two-carbon compound and water.

Ethanol is a common endpoint of many metabolic processes, including anaerobic respiration — which is how yeast and some

other microorganisms produce sugar. Because it is such a simple organic compound, it is theoretically straightforward to derive it from almost any source of organic material that contains a reasonable amount of starch or sugar. The industrial chemistry involved has been known since the 19th century.

Gallon for gallon, ethanol has about 34 percent less energy than gasoline. Since pure ethanol has a higher octane rating than gasoline — about 116 AKI versus 87 AKI, respectively — it requires more energy in the form of a spark to start a combustion reaction in ethanol, but the octane rating also means it is able to be compressed more easily. However, ethanol

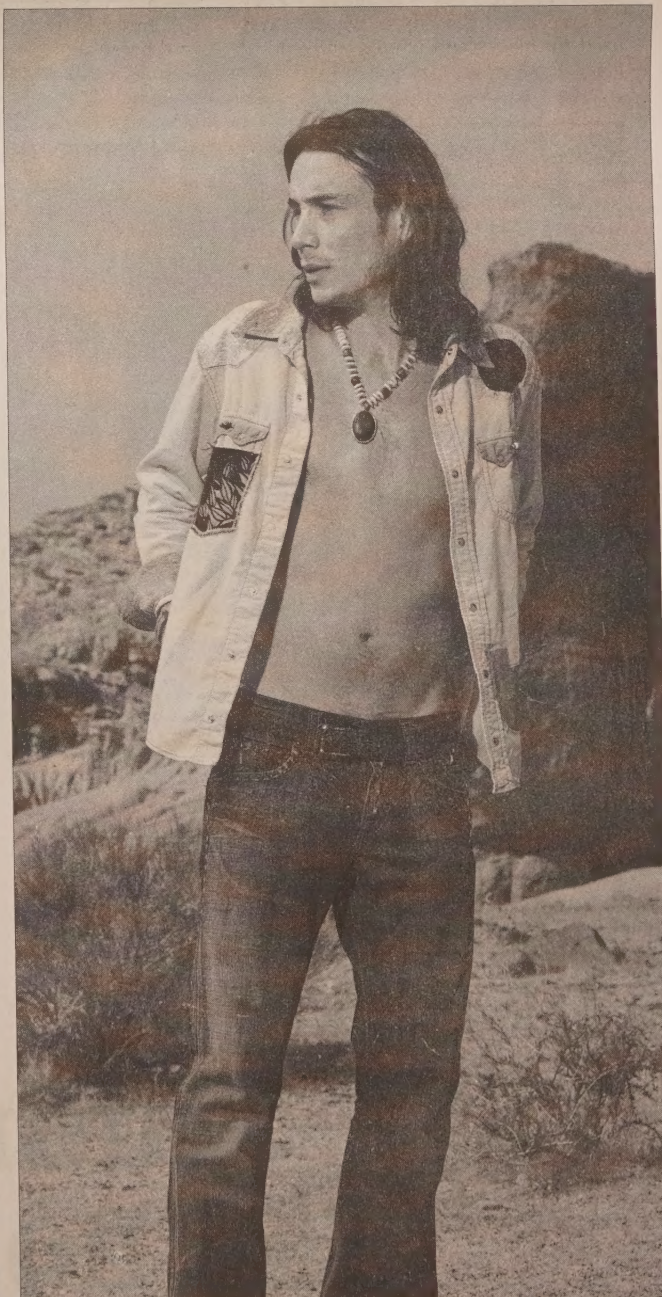
burns hotter than gasoline, at approximately 24,400 BTU versus 19,000 BTU, respectively.

The current goal of ethanol production is to use it as an additive to replace up to 10 percent of automotive gasoline by volume. Even this change requires some modification of engines, but many American cars made in the last year or two are designed to be compatible with up to 10 percent ethanol. In Brazil, most automobiles run exclusively on ethanol, while other cars mandated to have a minimum of 25 percent ethanol mixed into gasoline.

Undoubtedly, ethanol burns cleaner than gasoline. The chemistry of ethanol combustion causes it to be fully converted to carbon dioxide and water, unlike gasoline, which produces various other hydrocarbons as a result of incomplete burning. Ethanol is free of all particulates and metal additives and produces far less carbon monoxide. In theory, at least, the production of greenhouse gases would dramatically decrease if ethanol were more widely used.

Just how widely used remains debatable, though. Ethanol production is not perfect. Even though it is considered a renewable fuel source because it can be derived from corn, switchgrass, sugar, and other fast-growing crops, the efficiency and total volume of ethanol produced from these sources is low. Hydrocarbon pollution by ethanol refineries has led to citations from the EPA in recent years. A fair amount of petroleum-based products go into their production, including fertilizers and pesticides, as well as gasoline to deliver the crops to factories. It is difficult to determine exactly how much energy goes into the production of ethanol, but at the moment the technology is probably just around the break-even point: it takes almost as much energy to make ethanol as is produced by its combustion.

The United States is probably not ready to embrace ethanol to the same extent as Brazil. However, further research will undoubtedly render it cleaner and cheaper, and new uses are constantly being discovered. Researchers recently described a method to produce hydrogen by using ethanol. With further improvements, ethanol will likely prove to be a crucial addition to the array of alternative fuels currently under development.



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Johns Hopkins University Career Center

3 Career Fairs this February

attend one of them or all three...

Learn more about the employers that will be at these events at www.jhu.edu/careers or visit the Career Center in Garland Hall, 3rd Floor.

1 Science & Technology Career Fair

Thursday, February 8

11:00am-3:00pm, Levering Hall

Thinking about a career that will use your quantitative skills? Talk to employers offering full-time and internship opportunities in fields such as engineering, scientific research, biotechnology, information technology, and more.

2 Central Maryland College Career Fair

Wednesday, February 21

10:00am-3:30pm, Towson Center

Towson University

Over 150 employers! Brought to you by the Maryland Career Consortium, a group of 10 colleges and universities including Johns Hopkins University.

3 Public Service Career Fair

Thursday, February 22

12:00-2:30pm, Glass Pavilion

Succeed in a career that makes a difference! Network with government agencies, non-profits and education-focused organizations offering full-time and internship opportunities.

How to Work a Career Fair

Tuesday, February 6

5:00-6:00pm, Mattin Center, Room 160.

Not sure what to do once you get to a career fair? Come to this workshop to find out how to approach employers in a strategic way and make a great first impression.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIAL

Commencement fumble

The senior class officers who selected Baltimore Ravens head coach Brian Billick as this year's commencement speaker seem to have Johns Hopkins University confused with some other school — Ohio State or the University of Florida, perhaps. For the second year in a row, the University will host a commencement speaker whose name will surely elicit more responses of "Who?" than "Wow."

It's not the coach's fault that the Hopkins community, on the whole, probably cares as much about professional football as it does about the change between the couch cushions. If this University and its students were concerned about athletics, then it wouldn't have sporting facilities that barely rival those of a typical suburban high school. Thus, come May 17, most seniors (and their relatives in attendance) will be scratching their heads in wonder. Who is this Billick, and why should we care what he has to say?

Our gripe is not with the coach — he may prove a fine, inspirational orator. What irks us is that those making important decisions affecting the student body appear to be completely disconnected from it. Hopkins is one of the most academically rigorous schools in the world. Most students connect much more strongly with an intellectual message than a motivational one, which is what the decision-makers like senior class vice president Samata Kamireddy seem to think Billick will provide.

Furthermore, if the Director of Commencement and our senior class officers think they have chosen a speaker of local import, they should

probably be examined for blunt trauma. The Ravens are, at best, a diversion from matters of real importance in Baltimore. A person of genuine relevance in this city might be former Maryland Congressman and NAACP president Kweisi Mfume, or journalist, author and *The Wire* creator David Simon. Who knows, maybe we could have tried for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi herself a Baltimore native and scion of one of the city's most significant political dynasties.

Sports are fun, but, as the city of Baltimore knows all too well, teams can pack their bags and seek greener pastures at any time. Athletes and owners are beholden to corporate sponsors rather than the cities in which they play. When it comes to the character of this city, its crumbling streets, its crime and its culture, Billick and his team barely make a dent.

Commencement is no trifling matter. Graduating seniors should be able to look back on the ceremony as a profound moment in their pasts. It marks the end not only of the undergraduate experience but also of an incomparably formative chapter of their lives. We cannot help but feel that the selection committee has not taken that vital fact into account. Their decision shows a disturbing lack of regard for the sensibilities of the students.

Despite our disappointment, we wish Billick the best. We just have one request. Please, we implore you coach, no "life is like the gridiron" or "you're the quarterback of your own destiny." Sports metaphors, like out-of-touch administrators and class officers, make us cringe.

Tuition rises, but why?

Among the many bad trends in education, yearly increases in tuition are probably the worst. Residents of other countries probably don't even recognize the numbers involved in a private education in the United States. Between tuition, inflated dormitory prices, mandatory overpriced meal plans and the high prohibitive cost of college textbooks, students not receiving financial aid at schools like Hopkins are paying in the vicinity of \$50,000 annually.

For the 2007-2008 school year, the University will be raising tuition by some \$2,000. While we cannot claim to be happy about the increase, it would be too presumptuous for us to comment on its necessity. The finances of an organization as large as Hopkins are beyond the ken of most mortals and, in any case, not available for public inspection. But one thing students and their parents should reasonably expect is a thorough justification from the University.

Yet tuition increases are usually accompanied by generalities — "new initiatives," "operating costs" and the like. We would all feel much better about the hike if we knew precisely what the new costs were. The University often touts increased funding for financial aid, but it does not take a Ph.D. to realize that additional financial aid funding would be unnecessary if tuition were not constantly on the rise. And, speaking of Ph.D.s, what about Hopkins' chronically underpaid professors? What about abysmal gradu-

ate student stipends? We want to know that the money we're asked to pay is going to the areas of the University that need it most.

When criticized for tuition increases, universities often become defensive. But before they complain that they are covering legitimate costs they should consider providing an explanation. Students and parents deserve at least that much. The seemingly endless padding of college tuitions is not sustainable. Eventually, students and their families will revolt against the grotesque price of tertiary education. Indeed, many are already fleeing to Canada where rates are more reasonable. The excuse of keeping up with peer institutions satisfies no one and reeks of a kind of de facto collusion.

But Hopkins — and other schools in a similar position — could at least postpone that mutiny among the college-bound by sharing their reasons. The University should consider sending a detailed report to parents describing new increases, dollar for dollar. A good analogy is a publicly owned company that provides its investors with regular financial updates. Hopkins is not publicly owned, but the parents who pay tens of thousands of dollars each year are not unlike stockholders. Many parents will not read the entire document, but at least the University will have made a good faith effort, which it does not currently do. Perhaps then we will feel slightly less exploited.

Credit where credit's due

One point on which nearly every career counselor and college advisor would agree is that internships are vital to a student's résumé. Without internship experience or solid connections, a young graduate will find it nearly impossible to secure a job he or she finds rewarding.

In light of this Age of the Internship, the new policy developed by the University's Committee on Independent Work, which limits students to only one academic credit for unpaid internships, forces undergraduates into an uncomfortable Catch-22. On the one hand, we are bombarded by pressure to nab internships, which are now requisite for most post-graduate careers. This means that, whether unpaid or paid, internships are valuable commodities in an undergraduate's life. On the other hand, the University's new policy makes it hard to justify pursuing an unpaid internship when the credit yield is hardly worth the competitive applications or — more importantly — the financial sacrifice required to take on a job without compensation. What's a career aspirant to do?

The University has justified the new internship policy by claiming that unpaid internships do not constitute "academically substantive experiences." According to the Committee, the only such experiences are independent study or research projects. But that logic runs counter to the significant rewards and accomplishments students can accrue through unpaid internships, which are no less important to their education than their classroom or research experiences.

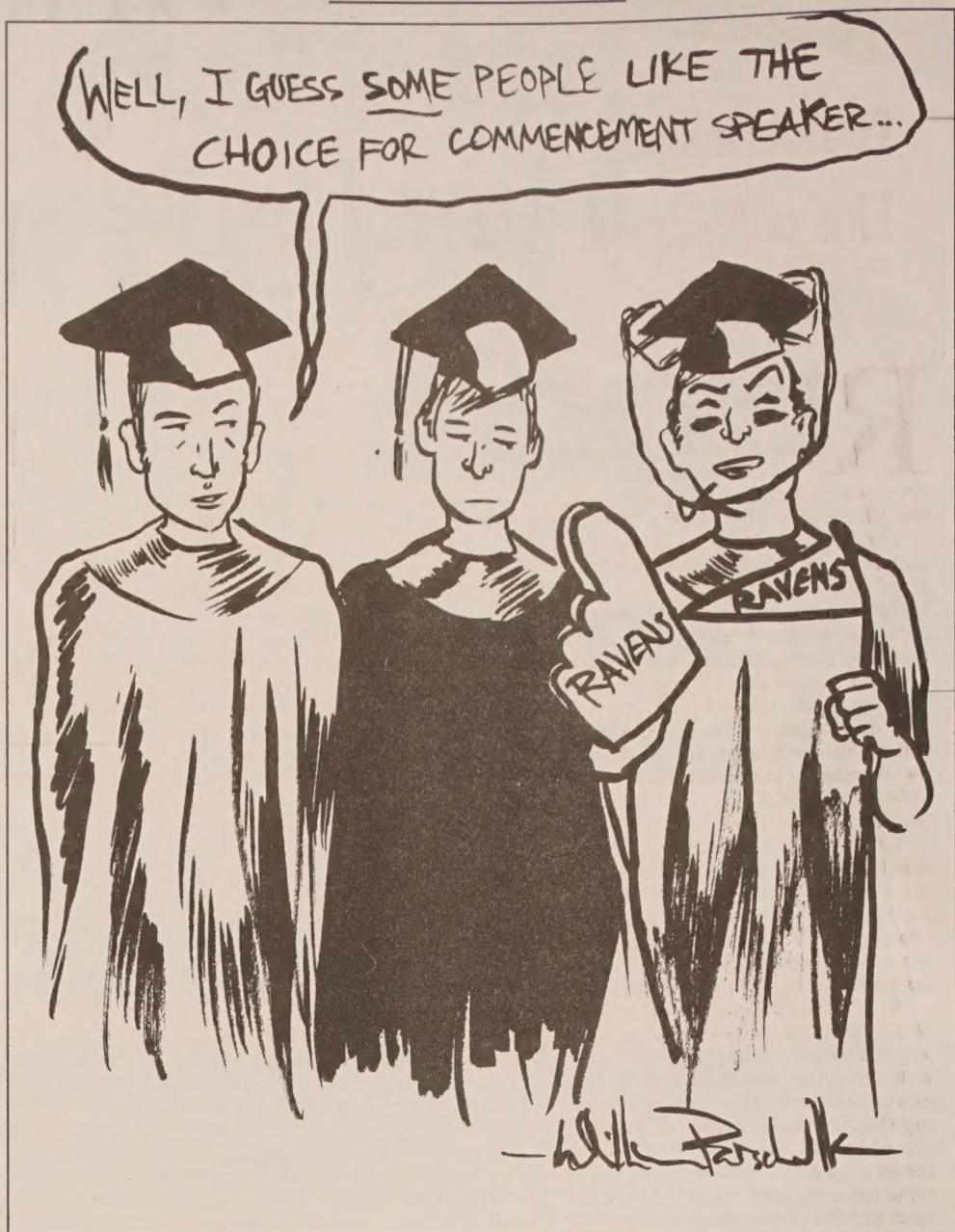
It is also well-known that certain internship-offering industries — such as many creative,

artistic or non-profit fields — offer mostly unpaid internships that are rich in experience, as opposed to corporations who can afford to pay interns for menial duties. It is simply not practical for a student of journalism, art or public service to avoid taking an unpaid internship, and it is not fair for him or her to receive one measly credit for their often substantial efforts.

Perhaps more importantly, students who are already overburdened with hefty educational expenses should not be expected to take on what is essentially an unpaid job without the opportunity to advance toward their degrees. Imagine a student who is faced with the following choice: to forsake making money over a summer for an unpaid internship that will be worth one-third of a regular course or to relinquish this opportunity altogether and get a job with little to no educational value. The new policy does not encourage students, as the deans hope, to partake in more "substantive" activities. Instead, it unreasonably limits our choices.

We agree that not all internships are made equal and that plenty of unpaid positions are menial and largely meaningless as academic activities. But such considerations would be better determined on a one-on-one basis between a student and a faculty member who sponsors the internship accreditation. There is a great deal of nuance when it comes to the world of internships. A blanket rule that makes it impossible to gain sufficient credit for an internship, no matter how much a student may benefit from it, ignores the effort it takes to shape unpaid internships into meaningful experiences.

William Parschalk



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The *News-Letter* received no letters to the editor this week.

LETTERS POLICY

The Johns Hopkins *News-Letter* welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 250 words. Letters must be delivered to the Gatehouse by Tuesday at 7 p.m. or e-mailed to News.Letter@jhu.edu for inclusion in that Thursday's issue. All letters received become property of the *News-Letter* and can not be returned. The *News-Letter* reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include the name, address and telephone number of the author. Only one author's name may be included. Groups, teams and other organizations may not submit letters, only individuals. The *News-Letter* reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

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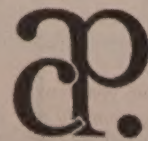
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Patrick Kennedy

The politics of unreality

Right now, America is in the midst of a winter of political discontent that is bound to persist for at least two more years. The war in Iraq has empowered full-scale Islamo-fascists like Moktada al-Sadr and is killing civilians by the tens of thousands. Back home, the few early victories that Congress' Democratic majority has bought with its hard-earned political capital will probably prove little more than empty gestures, like the efforts at ethics reform, or will face presidential vetoes, like the new stem cell research and Medicare bills. Even George W. Bush appeared to suffer a Nixon-style nervous breakdown the evening he announced that he was ordering over 20,000 more soldiers and marines into Iraq's sectarian violence.

Yet there is a disturbing irony in all of this. Just as the president, in a break from his usual propensity for self-delusion, has begun to worry that his tenure will enter history as an eight-year disaster, a sense of political escapism has taken root across the rest of American politics.

By all accounts, roughly 60 percent of the electorate is dissatisfied with the way the country is operating. But under a stubborn and criminally incompetent executive branch, there is little or nothing that this majority can do. Instead of protesting the damages inflicted on the nation's military, economy and global reputation, we have embarked on a period of "run down the clock" politics — hoping against hope that we can take a couple more years of hell.

However, this does not mean that interest in national affairs is ebbing. Rather, the public has begun to focus on side issues and political gossip, as opposed to confronting the monumental issues that cannot be effectively addressed under today's pervasive leadership vacuum.

Tragically, the very politicians touted as replacements for the country's present leadership, and whose murmurings of higher office have provided a storm of escapist headlines, lack the courage to ameliorate such public afflictions.

I am horrified by the field of contenders for the 2008 presidential race. Right now it appears that Hillary Clinton is en route to a presidential nomination, even though her most prominent and courageous legislative stance to date was to demand a federal investigation of pornographic content in the *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas* video game. Perhaps the only more striking display of opportunism can be attributed to John McCain, who has gone from characterizing right-wing radicals in 2000 as "agents of intolerance" to pandering to the most dangerous religious reactionaries and neon hardliners in the Republican base.

In any other period of history, such officials — to say nothing of upbeat mediocrities like Barack Obama, Rudy Giuliani, and Mitt Romney — might be recognized as profiles in insipidity. Yet tacit comparison with a chronically incompetent president has allowed them to project an aura of real leadership by confusing inspiring stories (Obama's biography) or long-discarded principles (McCain's ability to still evoke the "maverick" persona that is now an empty shell) with the real intelligence needed to solve the country's problems.

However, inspiring narratives and discarded principles provide a welcome refuge from the fearsome realities of present policies. They also muffle the harsh fact that the current government is thoroughly unresponsive to the will and interests of the public. Although two out of three Americans oppose the Bush administration's new strategies for the war in Iraq — which Republican Senator Chuck Hagel has justly described as "a ping-pong game with American lives" — neither expert nor popular opinion has been sufficient to curb a conflict that, under its consistently negligent and myopic management, is bound to end terribly.

Unfortunately, in an atmosphere devoid of political substance, but not interest, we may also witness the return of Rovian wedge-issue politics — a renewed battle over perennially intractable issues like abortion and relative non-issues like gay marriage. What better way to drown out the suffering of a real war than by re-vamping the culture wars?

That, my fellow Americans, is our country as it is today. And unless the Democrats can drive the president's approval ratings into the mid-teens and force a few well-earned resignations, that is the country of tomorrow as well.

Good times are, as they say, just around the corner. Too bad that that corner is two years away.

—Patrick Kennedy is a junior history of art and Writing Seminars major from Watchung, N.J.

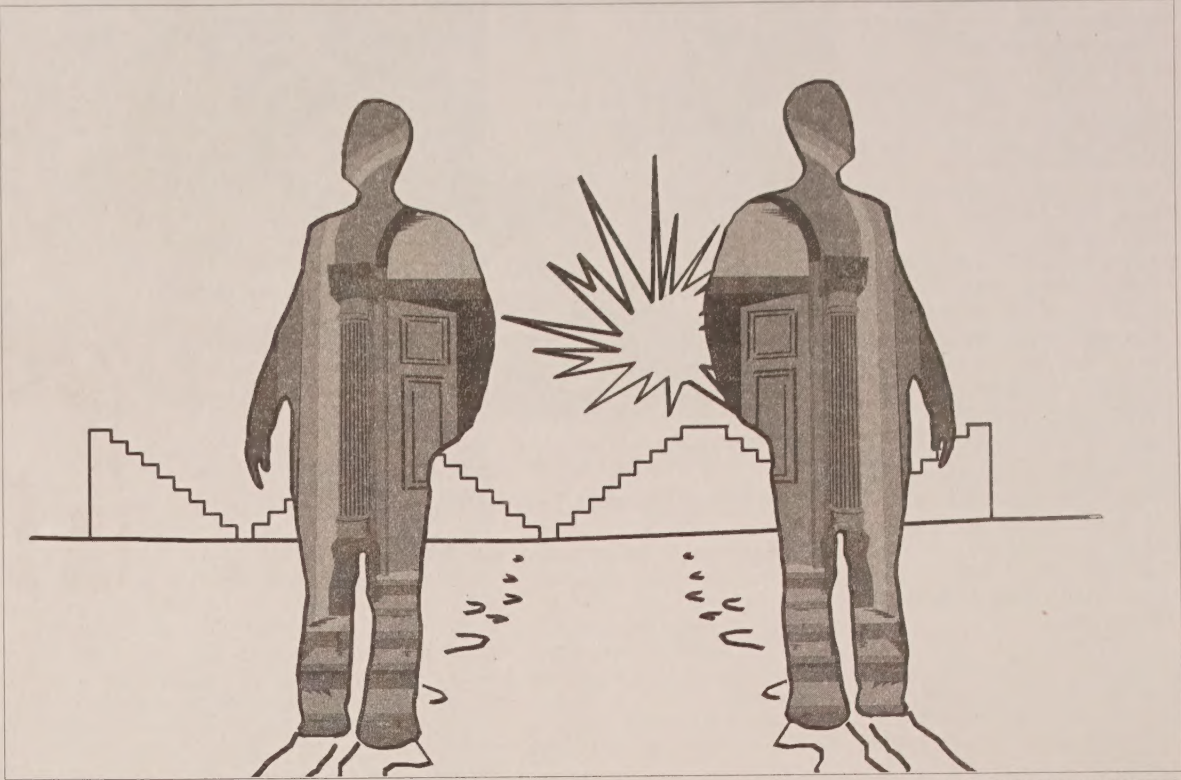
By SHEKEAB JAUHARI

As students at the height of our lives, in of one of the finest institutions in the world, we are blessed in all respects of the word. We have intelligence, youthful vigor and energy, and are for the most part free of the burden of poverty. Perhaps our greatest asset, though, is time, but not in the usual sense: It is our hope of countless years of life ahead. But there will always linger the doubt that our appointed terms may end at any instant.

When I speak of time, I mean the free time we have at this very moment, our lack of real-life commitments such as tending to children, families or having full-time work. It is the perfect harmony of this precious time, energy and intellect that promises the greatest potential life can offer, allowing us to broaden our horizons and undertake difficult tasks. But how often do we truly transcend our self-created niches of work, play and rest to strive to add dimension and volume to our lives? As young adults, what are the means of navigating such idealistic conceptions?

This winter, I was blessed to commence a most formative journey — the Hajj, or pilgrimage, as offered by Muslims from all over the world. It was a forum of unbelievable experiences, layers of meaning and implications that I could acknowledge but never fully understand. I was a single pilgrim in a sea of six million.

Clad in plain white, I was surrounded by men and women from every country, of every age, of every level of income, of every temperament, who spoke every language, and in totality represented the universal human experience. I was insignificant, and so was everyone else. In the sight of God, from which everything proceeds and for Whose sake and pleasure these rituals were intended to be performed, we were insignificant. In a moment I was absolutely free, because nothing in the world mattered — the



MATT HANSENNEWS-LETTER

world was nothing.

Throughout our lives, our experience informs the personal truths we pick. For me, all such truths were evaporated in a single moment, except for one: that the intended function of everything is for the sake and pleasure of God alone, and that this is the purpose of our creation. In two and a half weeks, in swirling crowds of hundreds of thousands, in a foreign country where amenities are scarce and the land is arid, I discovered one universal truth.

I say alhamdulillah, or praise be to God, for it was only through the majesty of his infinitude that I was able to come to such a conclusion. It is irrelevant whether one agrees or disagrees with

this statement or with the sentiments I enjoyed during the pilgrimage, because they comprise the truth that has come to define me individually. Herein lies the greater point: It is our responsibility, as possessors of ample time and ability, to discover our one universal truth. We should invest that discovery with passion, soul and energy. We may never again have the chance to determine what is fundamentally true for us, for tomorrow may never come.

Truth will not come by itself — we are blessed with advantages for a reason. It will not come without suffering — the road to truth is filled with distractions, a test for those with determination. Certainly it will take reflection,

and certainly it will take action. Beyond this, the path is gray and individually determined. Saul Williams never bothers to elucidate a method when he stresses, "Find your mantra. Awaken your subconscious."

What shall be gained from such efforts is the greatest confidence in one's existence and actions, strength in times of difficulty and tribulation and a sense of universal context. The truest form of happiness can be ours. And there can be nothing greater.

Shekeab Jauhari is a sophomore physics and astronomy and anthropology major from Miami, Fl. He is a member of the Muslim Students association executive board.

Tall, skinny mocha — no judgment, please

By OLIVIA HELPRIN

I don't think I'm supposed to like Starbucks. I mean, really, none of us are. We're college students. We often style ourselves as activists, radicals. We take up causes, sign petitions, and volunteer — at least when there isn't an orgo midterm coming up. Even then, we join activism-oriented Facebook groups, wear Product (Red), recycle and generally manage to feel pretty good about our collective social conscience.

Starbucks does its best to fit into this mold. The company claims to be devoted to building communities and supporting the environment. There's even a \$10 million initiative to provide safe water to developing countries — tied in, of course, to sales of the house brand bottled water, Ethos. But this commitment is diluted when compared to the company's net

Olivia Helprin is a sophomore public health major from Earlysville, Va.

profits — \$6.4 billion in fiscal year 2005, according to the annual report.

So, Starbucks is a mega-corporation looking to achieve world coffee domination. Corporations are created for profitability, not philanthropy. If I want my \$3.50 to take root in Baltimore, I should get my caffeine fix at Carma's, Eddie's or Café Q. If social responsibility is what I'm looking for, or at least pictures of cute kids on the cups, I should head to Pura Vida at Levering (just please don't get me started on Aramark).

The guilty secret? I haven't. Not since the two new Starbucks stores appeared on Saint Paul Street. It's not really about the coffee. A tall, skinny mocha, no whip, is hard to get terribly wrong. Friends with more sophisticated palates tell me that the coffee is middling, that an accomplished "indie" barista could take me to new, muddier, heights. For the most part, I buy it.

What I'm not willing to give up is the

consistency and familiarity. Whether you're in Baltimore, Seattle, Japan, or the middle of Nebraska, Starbucks coffee will be the same. The same white and green cups, the same vanilla sugar, the same generic "coffee-house sound" pumped past the same muted-color schemes and bulbous furniture.

We've come of age in a world of constant flux, quick fixes and temporary patches. Coups topple governments. The World Health Organization maintains a starkly serious doomsday book of chicken-deaths. When we started high school, there was no such thing as the Department of Homeland Security. Now the terror-alert level can flicker between yellow, orange and red — rather cheerful colors that broadcast the threat of impending destruction — in minutes.

Suddenly the Cold War seems like a period of comparative calm, save the minor detail of possible nuclear holocaust.

Information is fluid. The print version of the *Britannica* is outdated before its ink

dries. The user-created, continuously updated *Wikipedia* is, astoundingly, equally accurate. I have 101 friends with recently updated Facebook profiles. News Feed (remember when that came out?) tells me that Dan finally got a haircut, Debra's single, and Pete is, well, still a tool. Five years ago, Facebook didn't even exist.

Added to this continual change is the increasing tyranny of choice. I recently tried to buy Q-Tips at Target. I was paralyzed by a display of no fewer than 37 incarnations of the humble cotton-tipped swab. When confronted by four aisles of shampoo, I almost decided to embrace my (deeply buried) inner Rasta and just grow dreads.

On the way out of the store, I stopped at Starbucks for a tall, skinny mocha, no whip. I could have gotten the exact same thing at any of the eight stores within ten miles of my rural farm. Or any of the 274 in the state of Virginia. Or even the 9,038 in the United States.

And I like that.

Marc Goldwein

State of sacrifice

President Kennedy's words, "Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country," lie in stark contrast to today's politics.

Last Tuesday, President Bush proposed a strong domestic agenda based on a list of new and recycled policies developed with both practical purpose and political realism in mind. Though the president was happy to explain the potential benefits of these policies, he failed to describe the real sacrifices that will be required to achieve them.

Consider Bush's healthcare plan. Replacing our current unlimited deduction of employer-sponsored healthcare with a standard deduction for all will increase the affordability of health insurance for the uninsured and self-employed while creating market restraints on the future growth of healthcare costs. As Bush explained, "this proposal would mean a substantial tax savings" for many Americans.

What he failed to explain, however, is how this deduction will be paid for. Under his proposal, those who receive employer-sponsored health insurance

costing over \$7,500 (or \$15,000 for a family) will be subject to a real increase in their taxes. And while this increase will affect very few people at first — only the very wealthy, those whose employers provide the best health plans and those who purchase health insurance when they are already sick — it will hit an increasing number of people as healthcare costs continue to outpace inflation.

The result of these costs would not only be higher taxes for some, but an increased likelihood of employers offering less comprehensive coverage. Despite this disadvantage, I believe Bush's plan is a good one. But he should be willing to tell us the costs of enacting it.

Bush also offered a far-reaching energy proposal. Mandatory fuel standards, modernized fuel economy regulations, increased oil production, larger oil reserves and increased production of alternative fuels can all help to accomplish the president's goal of "reducing gasoline usage by 20 percent in the next 10 years," which will in turn decrease energy costs (and price shocks), reduce our dependence on Middle Eastern oil

and help the environment.

But, as with his healthcare plan, his energy plan is not free of costs. New regulations and standards could weaken our economy, increased oil production can hurt our environment, larger oil reserves will raise our current gas prices and incentives for energy diversification will impose significant costs on the federal budget. Again, this does not mean that his plan was wrong, only that he failed to outline the sacrifices we must make for it to succeed.

These two examples are minor compared to our coming fiscal crisis. For the first time in his presidency, Bush has called for a balanced budget and argued that it can be achieved "without raising taxes." In the short term, the President is right. With reasonable spending constraints, we can grow ourselves out of the current budget deficit (around \$250 billion) by 2021, and probably even earlier.

But this calculation ignores the two-ton gorilla of entitlement spending. As the baby boomers retire, Social Security and Medicare will begin putting massive burdens on the budget. When combined with debt payments and Medicaid, they

will cost 20 percent of GDP (more than all current government spending) within the next half century.

Balancing the budget in the long term will require sacrifices from all of us. If the president believes we can do this without any tax increases, he is obligated to propose the large long-term spending cuts that will be needed in order to make these programs affordable. At minimum, he is obligated to tell the American people that their sacrifices will be felt in a real and substantial way.

Overall, I give the president's domestic policy proposals an A-, but his candor deserves a C+. Presidents must not only make the hard decisions, but also sell these decisions to the American people. As our men and women are risking their lives to stabilize Iraq, I think it is fair to ask the American people to sacrifice some of their welfare so that our troops return to a stronger and more prosperous nation.

We want to know what we can do for our country, Mr. President, and we're hoping for an answer.

—Marc Goldwein is a senior political science and economics major from Merion, Pa.

Wrestling plagued by injuries, inexperience

Continued from Page A12
that doesn't mean it gets easier to sit and watch his team struggle. His replacement at 174, freshman Pete Kavanagh, was pinned in the last match of the day, the tail end of a four-match run that gave Gettysburg the win. Three of those losses came against freshman wrestlers.

Even Kraus' and Sumner's return, however, couldn't put Hopkins over the top against Muhlenberg and Ursinus, two of the Centennial Conference's top teams. The Muhlenberg match began auspiciously before the bottom fell out of the Hopkins effort. Starting with the 165-pound bout, Hopkins reeled off three consecutive wins, including a pin at 165 from freshman Mickey Keane. The Jays were up 13-0 after junior Eric Fishel's major decision at 184, but that was where the Jays' luck ran out. They lost six matches in a row before junior 157-pounder Jim Crumlish put them back in the wins column with a technical fall in the last match of the day. But by then it was much too late. Hopkins 18, Muhlenberg 31.

The Bears were no easier than the Mules. Despite consecutive pins from Fishel and sophomore 197-pounder Tyler Schmidt putting the Jays on top of Ursinus



Senior 141-pounder Marco Priolo grapples with his Muhlenberg opponent. Priolo helped the Jays place second at Wash. & Lee.

15-6, Hopkins couldn't keep up the momentum going on to lose 28-18. The last three Blue Jay points were easily the brightest moment of the day. Priolo earned a decision against Ursinus' Tim Hulme giving the Blue Jay his 27th victory of the year. That total, tying the mark Kraus set last

year, is believed to be a Hopkins single-season record ("believed to be" because record-keeping in the program's early days was spotty). But the historic mark did not have its full effect on Priolo in the midst of a tough season.

"I'm happy I'm doing well, but it's still a team sport and it frustrates me every day that our best team isn't on the mat," he said.

It wasn't all bad for the Jays, though, as they continued to demonstrate their success in tournament competition.

"We're a better tournament team," Priolo said.

With a few proven stars and a lot of question marks, the Jays are designed for tournaments, proving themselves again on that front with a second-place finish at the Washington & Lee Tournament. Priolo, Fishel and Schmidt all took home top finishes as the Jays cruised to victory over six schools including the conference rival Generals. Only Muhlenberg finished above them, nabbing the top spot with a team score of 86.00. Hopkins accrued a sparkling 77.50.

Luckily for the Jays, their most

important competition of the year will also be in the tournament format. The Centennial Conference Tournament is already less than a month away. After finishing up their conference duals season, the Jays will head to Gettysburg to see each Centennial team again. If the wrestlers nursing injuries have time to heal, the team is hoping for better results.

"We still fully expect to win the conference when the tournament comes around," Fishel said. Fishel, too, sees the potential of this chronically-hobbled Blue Jays squad.

"We're coming really close to nationally-ranked teams," he said. "Once we have the full lineup back, we can start beating them."

Hopkins will take to the mat at McDaniel on Wednesday and then head to Virginia for a Saturday contest against Washington & Lee.

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Men's Fencing splits six at the Philadelphia Invite

By ALEXANDER IP
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

After a promising start to their season the men's fencing team went into the Philadelphia Invitational last Saturday feeling confident. Unfortunately the Jays faced some top-ranked competition at the event, and the team's poise did not translate into all of their bouts. The men went 3-3 on the day against the other participating schools, dropping their once-spotless season record to 7-3.

The team recorded losses to Rutgers, 10-17, the University of Pennsylvania, 7-20, and the event host Haverford, 14-15.

But on a positive note, the Jays made history by defeating, for the first time, the University of North Carolina, a squad that is ranked 10th in the nation by the U. S. Fencing Coaches' Association. The match was one of the most exciting in the tournament, as the Jays shut out the Tar Heels, 9-0, in the foil event, to produce a combined score of 15-12.

Hopkins was also victorious against Sacred Heart, 17-10, and Vassar, 14-13.

The Philadelphia Invitational was the first official competition for the Jays after a two-month break in the team's meet schedule. This long idle period could have accounted for some of the loss in the team's momentum since late in the fall semester.

"The obvious disadvantage [of the long break] is that we haven't been able to get as much practice competing as we could if we had more meets scheduled over Inter-session, but the advantage is that we got to use the time as time for intensive training," sophomore foil Ben Dorfman said. "We have had the chance to get in much better physical condition, which we wouldn't have been able to do without that gap in our schedule."

Some other fencers believed that the break from competition in December and January wasn't long enough.

"This intersession didn't feel as productive as last year's, mostly due to the shortened time table. The extra week of training last winter was when everything

seemed to come together," senior saber Andrew Carney said. "Everyone had progressed individually as well as gained a greater awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of the other members of their respective weapon."

The Jays led off the invitational with Dorfman doing his part against Vassar, contributing wins in all three of his bouts to bring Hopkins to 6-3 in the foil, which compensated for the losses in the saber and the epee events against the Brewers.

Dorfman continued to pull his weight, along with sophomore foil Jimmy Einsiedler and senior foil Nick Marchuk, to bring the sure-handed foil squad to 7-2 against Rutgers. Hopkins' sabers and epees, however, crumbled again, as both squads were trounced by the Scarlet Knights.

The Jays also took a shocking loss to Haverford in the tightest match of the weekend, which showcased a standout 3-0 event performance from freshman saber Trevor Van Eeuwen against the Fords.

"Trevor has been solid from the beginning, and also helps to motivate the team because he cares very strongly about how we do," Dorfman said.

It didn't get better for Hopkins; all three weapons were silenced by the tough University of Pennsylvania team. The Jays went 1-8 in the foil, 2-7 in the saber and 4-5 in the epee against the Quakers.

"In terms of athletic ability and skill, we should've destroyed the UPenn saber squad and Haverford. Those were rough losses," Carney said. "What's hurting us most now is our mental game, on and off the strip."

The Jays managed to cap off the tournament with a dominant win over Sacred Heart, taking all three events.

It's clear that the team has a lot of potential, and the guys still have much time to find a way to produce a more balanced contribution from all three of their weapons.

The Jays' next tournament will be this weekend as they will host to their own invitational at Hopkins.



Freshman 149-pounder James Gettinger lost his match in Muhlenberg's 31-18 win.



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Swimming topples The College of NJ

By EILEEN LILLY
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

With only one more dual meet left in the season, both the men's and the women's swimming teams returned to action, going 1-1 at a tri-meet at the College of New Jersey. The Jays defeated TCNJ, but fell short when faced with Division II West Chester. Both swim teams are now 5-4 having also lost to North Carolina at their first dual meet of 2007.

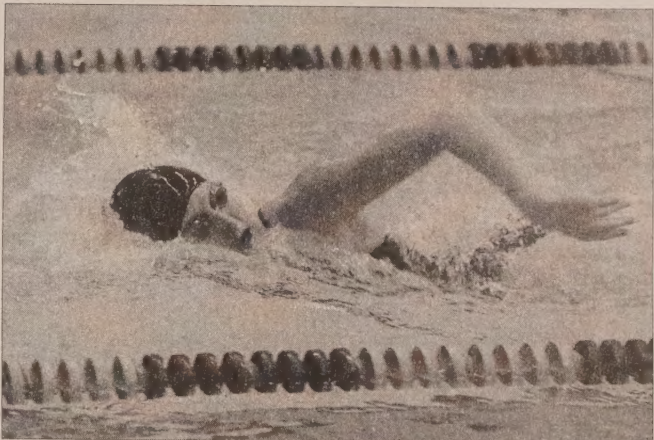
The women's team destroyed TCNJ winning 232 to 132, but still they could not manage to beat West Chester who had 258 points to the Jays' 206. Sophomores Kristin Cunningham and Kate Hansen led the squad in both meets by scoring crucial individual wins.

Their wins were not the only impressive parts of the team's performance, as sophomore Elissa Stautner and freshman Lisa Qu each swam new personal bests. Freshman Caitlin Dennis placed second in the 200 IM with her second best time. Cunningham won the 100 free also with her second best time. According to Stautner, the continuous improvement, especially in the freshman and sophomore swimmers, could be attributed to their alternative training done earlier this month.

"We spent eight days training in Florida at the beginning of the month," Stautner said. "We got some really good training in which has and is going to help us out."

The meet began with a Hopkins victory in the 200 medley relay. Following the successful relay, Stautner took third in the 200 freestyle and Dennis placed second in the 400 IM. Both the 200 and 800 meter freestyle relay teams took second place. Senior Allie Foster placed second in the 100 breast. As Hopkins continued to win and place events, it became quite clear that TCNJ could not stand up to the pressure.

After toppling The College of New Jersey, Head Coach George Kennedy looked ahead on his



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER
The women's 800 meter freestyle relay team placed second at the TCNJ tri-meet.

schedule and made it known that his girls were ready to compete for those meets following the regular season.

"Our last dual meet is this Saturday, and then we prepare for conference and NCAA Championships," Head Coach George Kennedy said. "The women's team is close to where they need to be they are ready to swim fast at championship meets."

The men's team defeated TCNJ 184.5 to 165.5 but lost to West Chester 124 to 240. The Jays began the meet with a second-place finish in the 200 medley with a time of 1:37.87. Freshman Neil Mahoney had one of his two wins swimming the 400 IM in a speedy 4:15.13. His second win was near the end of the meet in the 200 IM. Neil Mahoney was not the only freshman to help lead the team to a victory over TCNJ, as John Thomas also received a pair of wins through the backstroke, his specialty. Thomas won both the 100 and 200 with the respective times of 53.23 and 1:56.94.

The men's team continued to rack up points with sophomore Bob Sershon holding on to a third place finish in the 100 fly. Fellow sophomore Colin Kleinguetl ended up in second in both the 500 and 1650 Free. The 200 and 800 Free Relay teams both finished third, as did the 300 Medley Re-

lay team.

Determined to beat TCNJ, junior Brad Test won the 50 free. The meet ended on a third place finish for the 400 Free Relay, letting the men's team go home with a victory against TCNJ.

"We've been training quite often as the ECACs are right around the corner and a large portion of the team is shaving and resting for the meet," junior Brad Test said. "So there should be some fast times."

Before the tri-meet, both swim teams fell victim to the North Carolina Tar Heels. The men's teams lost 170 to 109 and the women were defeated 171 to 96. The men's and women's team opened with second place finishes in the 200 Medley, but were limited in their team scoring by too many third and fourth place finishes. Thus, neither team never really came close to overcoming North Carolina. The women's team did however win the closing event, the 400 Free Relay. Some of the few bright spots during the men's defeat were Brad Test's two wins in the 50 and 100 free, sophomore John Kegelmann's win in the 200 breast and sophomore David Postetter's win in the 500 free.

On Saturday, Hopkins will face Washington and Lee in their home pool for their last dual meet of the year.

SPORTS

Women's Basketball obliterates Owls, 70-31

By MIKE GLENWICK
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Since early December, the women's basketball team had, unintentionally, been following a very simple pattern: win two games, lose two games, win two games and so on. Naturally, such a pattern doesn't bode particularly well, as winning and losing the same number of games would not put the Lady Jays in a particularly good position come playoff time.

This time, however, after winning two games in a row earlier in the week, the Jays won a third, defeating Centennial Conference foe Washington (MD) 72-59 on the road in Chestertown on Tuesday night. The win was Hopkins' second this season against the Shorewomen, who have beaten some tough talent, such as a then-23rd ranked Muhlenberg team.

Senior forward Julie Miller had a double-double with 14 points and 12 rebounds, while junior forward Andrea Dodrill had eight points and 16 boards. Senior guard Whitney Davis led the team in scoring with 16 points.

Not only was the win notable in that it extended the team's winning streak to three games for the first time all season, but the game was also a road victory, only Hopkins' third of the season. Hopkins is 7-1 in the cozy confines of Goldfarb Gymnasium and is now only 3-5 on the road. In addition, the win puts the team at 8-3 in the Centennial Conference, good for a third-place tie. The Jays also have the second most in-conference wins of the all the Centennial Conference schools this season.

The win was certainly a big one for the Lady Jays, as, in addition to finally getting that third straight win that had been so elusive, the victory puts Hopkins at 5-2 in its last seven games and 5-3 since a nearly month-long break for finals and winter vacation. It was also the second

time in 2007 that they were able to score more than 70 points, a good indication that Coach Nancy Funk's team is right where it wants to be on the offensive side of the game.

Last Saturday, when many Hopkins students were busy getting ready for a new semester, the Lady Jays were busy showing off another part of their game, the defense. Hopkins looked as if it already were in mid-semester form, running all over the Bryn Mawr College Owls in blowout fashion, 70-31.

"We knew we had to turn things up a notch," freshman guard Leslie Markun said. Markun had four points, a block and a steal in the win.

Showing once again that they felt very comfortable playing on their home court, Hopkins came out strong early and put its mark on the game from the start. Sophomore forward Kristin Phillips, who has been playing at a consistently high level of late, scored eight early points in the first half to get things started. She finished with a team-high 13 points for the afternoon on five

of nine shooting and just missed a double-double, pulling down nine boards.

While Bryn Mawr played only six players, Hopkins was able to play all 15 of their players, as the team built up a substantial lead early on and never looked back.

"Our entire team really contributed and allowed us to completely take over," Dodrill, who started and had six points and five rebounds in 16 minutes, said. "We would not have won by such a margin without the contribu-

tions of our underclassmen."

By the time the first-half whistle blew, the Lady Jays had put up 41 points while holding the Owls to only 13. Although the tight defense may not have been absolutely necessary against Bryn Mawr, it was welcomed and will be important down the stretch. In particular, Dodrill, one of the taller players on the team, has stepped up her defense in leading the Jays. In addition to the five rebounds, she got three steals on Saturday, forcing valuable turnovers.

"Andrea has gotten some key steals for us," Markun said. "And we have been able to convert in transition."

Still, as the team enters the final weeks of season, the Lady Jays acknowledge the fact that most teams will bring much more to the court than did Bryn Mawr—the current cellar dwellers in the conference — and the team is going to have to start stringing these wins together, particularly in the final three games of its current four-game road trip. After that road trip, the team has four more games, three of which are at home and winnable, so the next few road games may prove to be a good yardstick of where the team is and where it might be headed in an unpredictable conference.

"Any team can come up with a win on any day, but I think that we will peak at the right time," Dodrill said. "Our goal for the rest of the season is to play solid for a full 40 minutes. ... If we do that, I think we will be more successful [than earlier this season]."



SHIV GANDHI/FILE PHOTO

Senior forward Julie Miller power dribbles before going to the hoop during a recent win over Swathmore.

Jays race to early season success at Ursinus Classic

Sophomore Li breaks record for shotput, team places second

By MATTHEW MURRAY
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

While much of the Hopkins student body was slumbering through the long holiday break, members of the men's indoor track and field team returned to the Homewood campus early to continue their training for the grueling season ahead. And after a challenging set of meets, the runners, throwers, vaulters and jumpers all know there is still a fair amount of work to be done.

Last Saturday at the University of Maryland Terrapin Invitational, a few of the Jays got their first taste of prime-time Division I competition as well as some Division III squads. Although it was not a scoring meet, Hopkins still raced their top runners in each event.

In the 60-meter dash, junior Chris Cottrell posted the fastest time for Hopkins with a 7.21 in the preliminaries. This time, however, did not qualify him for finals. Additionally, Cottrell sprinted to a 23.55 time in the 200 meter dash.

The one mile run featured a trio of Jays. Senior Jason Chiang posted the gutsy performance of the race, clocking in at 4:41 and placing 22nd. Following Chiang were seniors Andrew Bauerschmidt (25th) and Michael Yuan (29th).

The highlight of the Jays' day had to be senior Andrew Lewis' strong effort in the 3K. Lewis' hasty time of 9:05.43 finished him 15th in the field of 39. Junior Patrick Brandon (17th) came in on the heels of Lewis and posted a time of 9:09.05.

Although there was a good deal to smile about at the conclusion of the meet, the disappointment of the team's 4x400-meter team could not be missed. The four-man contingent crossed the line second to last with a time of 3:42.30.

Before the Terrapin Invite, a select group of Jays was hand-picked by Head Coach Bobby Van Allen to participate in the Gotham Cup on Jan. 12. The meet was held at New York's Armory Center, one of the most prestigious venues in all of indoor track.

There were many finishes of note. The most worthy was Brandon's seventh-place mark in the 5,000 meter race. Brandon, the top runner for Hopkins' cross country, utilized his pre-existent stamina and determination to cross the line with a time of 15:42. Right behind Brandon was freshman David Sigmon who impressed many with his showing (14th place, 16:10).

Not to be forgotten, one of the most diligent members of track team, sophomore thrower Peter Li, represented the Jays well in the shot put by heaving the shot a distance of 14.02 meters. The strong toss gave Li the 14th spot among competitors that day.

"Over the summer and during intersession, I really worked hard," Li said. "Before [in my weight training], I used to do only power cleans, but now I've expanded my training to include squats, bench press and other lifts."

Li has progressed nicely since last year, having already broken the indoor record for the shot put at the Dec. 9 Ursinus Indoor Track Classic. The first-place throw that got Li into the record books traveled a whopping 14.24 meters.

The other first-place finish at the Ursinus Classic came courtesy of a surprise win by freshman Noah Jampol in the one-mile run. Jampol's time of 4:38.72 beat out three other Hopkins runners, freshman Nate Sotuyo (4:41.69), junior Jason Hortiatas (4:45.45) and junior Eric Miller (4:45.54) who placed second, third and fourth respectively.

In the pole vault, sophomore Matt Trachtenberg placed fifth at the meet, leaping 3.80 meters. Trachtenberg, one of the integral pieces for Hopkins' success last year, believes that the freshmen on the squad will contribute in a big way to the 2007 campaign.

"We have some solid freshmen," Trachtenberg said. "And since we lost a lot of important seniors last year, we're really going to need the freshmen on the team to step up."

When all the dust had settled, the team as a whole claimed the runner-up trophy, besting all but one (Cheyney University) of the 17 teams competing in Collegeville, Pa., that day.

The early success of men's track and field thus far is a good indication that the tough practices are working and that there are still good things to come for these Jays. The men's track team will compete next at Haverford's McElliot Invitational on Saturday.



COURTESY OF ANDREW LEWIS
Junior Patrick Brandon competes in the 3,000 meter race at the Terrapin Invite.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK SAMANTHA DOLAN, WOMEN'S FENCING

Dolan's different strokes fool different folks

By MARY DOMAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Samantha Dolan is an artist. She's known for graceful strokes, sweeping rhythm and, of course, the popularity and success of her work. Perhaps her style is strongly influenced by her favorite artist, Edward Degas. Both share an admiration for grace that is reflected in their soft, sweeping style. "I really like the dancers he paints," she said.

This is no surprise, since Dolan has a long history of ballet training, gymnastics and tennis. Maybe this combination of interests in different forms of expression sparked her interest in one of mankind's oldest art forms: fencing.

Dolan started fencing her freshman year in high school. Her Southern Californian school didn't have a team, but her interest in fencing led her to join a local club. "I kind of shocked my friends," she said. "Fencing is pretty unusual in California." Also, she was one of four girls in fencing club. "I got used to fencing guys." Now that she competes against girls, she's had to adapt to a different style of fencing. "Girls just have a different way of fencing. They're much more hesitant and less aggressive than guys."

Her unique training background has given her a fencing manner that makes her stand out on the strip. Coach Jim Murray calls Dolan's swift technique the "West Coast style."

"She has her own style that's really fluid," teammate Ying Guo said. Her teammates claim that when she fences, it's like she's writing poetry. Dolan smiles when asked about her unusual

technique. She guesses a lot of what separates her from other Centennial Conference athletes is what she learned in California. In the East, it seems, fencing styles are more uptight and less aggressive than the west. Dolan concluded that California fencing "is just different than Jersey fencing." Freshman fencer Hana Bao added, "She does everything with an impressive flourish."

Dolan's technique has proven to be one-of-a-kind. This past weekend, Dolan outsmarted

every opponent she faced at the Philadelphia Invitational. In the National Intercollegiate Women's Fencing Association Christmas Invitational, Dolan finished seventh among 159 fencers from 17 schools. She said this performance is the highlight, thus far, of her fencing career at Hopkins. Against Cornell, she turned out an impressive record of 7-1. "Every fencer has a different strategy. You always have to be thinking and on your toes."

Dolan's success is only one of many Blue Jay accomplishments this season. With only one loss on their team record, the women's fencing team is quickly gaining a reputation in the fencing world. At the Temple Open, for example, the earliest tourney of the season, Hopkins amassed highest combined finish of any participating D-III team.

What separates Dolan from many athletes is her individuality. She admits that a fencer is "definitely not your typical athlete." After following the sport outside of school for many years, competing without a team, and receiving questioning looks from her Californian friends, it's apparent that her love of fencing is on a personal rather than public level. When asked about the, er, petite fencing fan base at Hopkins, she didn't respond with the usual desperation of Hopkins athletes. "I have my own motivation. A fan base would be nice I guess but not necessary." Like any artist, it seems that her work is a natural part of her life rather than an addition. "Fencing's one of those things you can do for life."

However, being part of a team is a new experience for this freshman. After joining the Jays, "I really learned how much of a team sport fencing can be," she said. The team practices five times a week, and has competitions almost every weekend. "The weekends are pretty much consumed."

Dolan has certainly adapted well to the new team environment. "She's a great addition to the team," Bao said. Dolan is one of the few fencers on the team that has fenced before college, and the experience she brings to practice helps the team just as much as the talent she brings to competitions. Guo admitted, "When I started, I definitely did not know she was a freshman. I was kind of intimidated."

And who wouldn't be? After only five tournaments, the competitors have been stunned by this new Blue Jay. With only a swift "little poised hand flick thing" (as Guo puts it), she's overcome a number of older opponents. This young artist's canvas isn't even close to being completed. The next Degas? It's possible.

"She does everything with an impressive flourish."

— FRESHMAN FORWARD
HANA BAO

VITAL STATISTICS

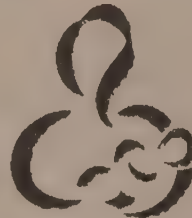
Year: Freshman
Major: Undecided
Position: Foil

Hopkins Highlights:
Finished 7th overall out of 159 fencers at the WFA Christmas Invitational.

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SPORTS

Did You Know?

After being down 21-3 in the first half in of the AFC Championship game against the New England Patriots, Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts made the biggest comeback in league championship history, surmounting the 18-point deficit to win, 38-34.

CALENDAR

SATURDAY

Swimming vs. Wash & Lee 12:30 p.m.

SUNDAY

M. Fencing Invitational Tournament
Time TBD

Men's basketball jumps to No. 22 in Division III

By JOHN MONAGAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Early in the season, inside a column touting the Hopkins men's basketball team, Head Coach Bill Nelson was quoted with a phrase that has to be recalled when talking about the current state of the men's basketball team.

"We need to stop turning the ball over," Nelson said at the

time, clearly and concisely explaining the problem that has been hurting the Blue Jays all season.

Having returned from break for the second half of their basketball season, the Blue Jays stand at 13-2. They are now ranked 22nd in the nation, and hold a sizable

Dickinson 40
Hopkins 77

lead over the rest of the Centennial Conference. However, for this team, which includes five seniors and two juniors with a significant contribution provided by two sophomores, there are higher goals in mind. To reach these goals and play past the Centennial Conference tournament, the Jays will have to cut down on their turnovers.

"Certainly, with the talent we have, we hope that we can reach and win a few games in the NCAA tournament," senior forward Zack Armen said. "At this point you really just take it one game at a time, and we have been doing our job thus far in conference games."

Over the winter break, the Blue Jays suffered their only two losses, dropping a game against highly ranked Mississippi College in a tournament on the West Coast and falling to Haverford in a terribly played game at the Goldfarb Gymnasium.

Since then, the Jays have turned things around, winning important road contests at Franklin & Marshall and Ursinus while additionally dismantling fellow conference rivals Gettysburg by 37 and Muhlenberg by 30.

"The Haverford game was a wake-up

call for us," Armen said. "While that was a terrible loss, the wins over Ursinus and F&M were very important. It's always a good win when playing on the road against a good opponent."

In those two losses, the Jays committed a total of 46 turnovers, 22 against Mississippi College and 24 against the Fords. This will, come March, be unacceptable for a team of such talent. Currently, the Blue Jays have three players averaging double figures in points. Senior forward Matt Griffin averages 15.6, senior forward Dan Nawrocki averages 12.8 per game and senior guard [J] Valerio has been scoring 11 per game. Nawrocki is also averaging over 10 rebounds per game.

These impressive statistics don't capture the full extent of the team's prowess, however. Attend a game against any other Centennial Conference opponent and it is obvious to the educated observer that the Hopkins team just has more talent than their opponents.

Nawrocki and Griffin dominate play inside, standing taller and playing stronger than any other pair of opposing forwards. Valerio and junior guard Doug Polster have been shooting lights-out from the outside and are currently two of the top shooters in the league, hitting 41 percent and 49 percent from three-point range, respectively. It is this combination that makes the Jays so dangerous, however if they keep turning it over, where averaging over 18 per game, they will be susceptible to teams like Haverford.

The Jays play next on Saturday at Washington and next Wednesday at Swarthmore.



COURTESY OF WILL KIRK

Sophomore 165-pounder Mickey Keane works for control vs. the Mules' David Lavin

Wrestling weathers three Centennial losses in a row

By ZACH GOODMAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

For many Hopkins students, Intercession, with its fluff classes and lax attitude, is a chance to relax, recuperate and regroup for the coming semester. But with a full battery of meets on the docket, the hurting wrestling team had no such luxury.

And it showed.

The Jays have been struggling through the dual meet portion of their season, thanks in large part to their failure to overcome their toughest opponent: the injury bug. Injuries have made Swiss cheese out of the lineup, with the holes patched either by inexperienced freshmen or not at all. As a result, Hopkins is 2-10 in dual meets and 0-3 against the Centennial Conference.

"We haven't been able to put our full lineup out all season," senior co-captain and 141-pound-

er Marco Priolo said. "Obviously it's a big disappointment."

Three starters were out of the lineup during the Jays' conference opener against Gettysburg on Jan. 11, which the Bullets won 27-15. Sophomore 125-pounder Mike Sumner and freshman 133-pounder Greg Gold were both absent, forcing Hopkins to forfeit the 133-pound match and not wrestle a 125 match (Gettysburg was also missing a 125-pounder). The lightest weight classes continue to take a toll on the Jays. Gold has been injured for most of the year and Sumner has struggled to earn points for the team all season.

But perhaps the most glaring absentee was co-captain and red-shirt senior 174-pounder Dave Kraus. Kraus, though, is no stranger to sitting out; he was red-shirted when an injury cost him his sophomore season. But

CONTINUED ON PAGE A10



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

Junior guard Doug Polster drives past a Gettysburg defender in front of an attentive home crowd.



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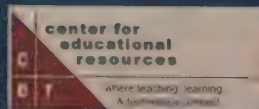
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THE B SECTION

The Johns Hopkins
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Features • Arts & Entertainment • Calendar • Cartoons

JANUARY 25, 2007

The future looks chic

New York
Fashion Week
Spring 2007

With trends veering from luxe to edgy, find out why this season's designers are obsessed with blasting fashion back to the future, **Page B5**



A place for learning in the village

By JAN LEE
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

A beautiful brick Victorian building situated on St. Paul houses a library, a Computer Technology Center, a Learning Center and an educational garden, but few people - even those in the neighborhood - know about it. Inside, there is a collection of 15,000 books, over 70 periodical subscriptions and comfortable chairs for your learning experience. This place is the Village Learning Place (VLP).

Nikki Rhodes, library associate and teacher for the 4th and 5th grade after school enrichment program, says "We'll have a few people come in every week saying, 'I've walked pass this building for years and this is the first time I've ever come inside,' and we don't want that to happen. We want people to know we are here as a resource." All resources are available to the young, old and in between of the Charles Village community.

The history of the VLP began when an Enoch Pratt Library branch closed down. In November of 1997, a group of concerned residents and business owners from the community, including Hopkins faculty and staff, met and unanimously endorsed a plan to create the VLP as a non-profit community-operated educational facility. Because of this, Liesje Buckley Gantert, Executive Director of the VLP, feels that the VLP "is a symbol of community cohesion and diversity." Since its institution, the center has been pursuing its mission to "break down social barriers, [integrate] diverse communities, [provide] educational and cultural enrichment for all ages." In its first year, the VLP has increased its

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.VILLAGELEARNINGPLACE.ORG](http://WWW.VILLAGELEARNINGPLACE.ORG)

The Village Learning Place provides a safe place for neighborhood children to learn from positive role models.

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Student Group Housing in McCoy

Have you bonded with classmates, members of your organization, or do you just have a big group of friends who may want to live close together? This year when you sign up for **Student Group Housing** in McCoy, rising sophomores, juniors and seniors will have the opportunity to register in groups of 8, 12 and 16.

This initiative is an expansion of last year's *Group of 8* pilot program where students chose to live in suites adjacent to, or within close proximity to, one another in McCoy Hall. This year, students will have the option to cluster in groups of eight, twelve or even sixteen friends within McCoy Hall. These groups may be comprised of several suites of the same gender or suites of different genders (for example, two male suites and one female suite, just remember suites must be single-sex). **Student Group Housing** offers a unique opportunity for mixed groups of sophomores, juniors and seniors with shared common interests to live in a residential community together. Again, this option is available in McCoy Hall only.

Remember, the best part of being in **Student Group Housing** is that you get to live with a larger group of friends and you get to choose your space before the Upperclass and Freshman Housing Processes take place. We hope to see you at our information session on January 26th!

January

Student Group Housing Information Session

Want to find out more? Join us Friday, January 26th
Charles Commons Room 304 @3:00pm

February

Student Group Housing Registration

Submitted on-line

Friday, February 2nd - Friday, February 9th

Deadline: February 9th @11:59pm

Visit: www.jhu.edu/hds/together

Student Group Housing Priority Number Notification

Tuesday, February 13th

Sent out by 5:00pm

Contract Signing for Student Group Housing

Thursday, February 15th @ 6:00pm

McCoy MultiPurpose Room

www.jhu.edu/hds/together

FEATURES



Maria Thomas assists Andrea Neal on one of the many computers at the Village Learning Place, a valuable resource for many local Charles Village residents.

Village Learning Place offers unique opportunities

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1
library cardholders from 600 to over 4,500. The center also strives to “[provide] educational and cultural enrichment for all ages and incomes” through its educational programs and services. Recently, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday, they held a VLP Read Aloud Day & MLK Celebration with stories, crafts and computer activities.

To help them in their mission, the VLP is continually looking for volunteers, who can become involved by teaching the Uruhu Movement: Stepping Class for Teens, maintaining the garden or working in the library. Through their partnership with Hopkins there are work-study positions available to Hopkins students. Work-study students can assist with tutoring the students in the after school program, serving as positive role models for the kids. “We love when JHU students get involved with our programs,” Gantert said. Gantert also suggested Hopkins students use the VLP for its lending library as a quiet place to study, a getaway from campus or the enrichment classes via the Baltimore Free University.

Rhodes came to work at the center five months ago with her teaching certification and the desire to work for a non-profit organization. She has enjoyed working at the center ever since. “Getting to help people everyday, working with kids everyday and getting to work with people who really care about the city is really fun,” she explained.

Working primarily with the Reading Enrichment After School Program, attended by kids from neighboring Margaret Brent Elementary, Rhodes sees first hand how the center is impacting their lives. “I think that having a place and a group of people that care about them means a lot. Just knowing that everyday they are going to have that structured time, they are going to be cared about and listened to helps provide a welcoming after school center.” Last year, a total of 2,258 Baltimore City students were served by the VLP library and the free educational programs offered.

As a library associate, Rhodes sees how the center helps the college students and adults of the community. “I can see the adults in the community are definitely using the library as a resource, from finding jobs on the internet to coming in here and using our library reference section [to enrich themselves].”

Since the VLP is non-profit, it relies heavily on donations for everything, from books to the gas and electric bill, so future plans for the center include fundraising. They are also starting several special collections, including one on Baltimore history and architecture. Another big goal for the center is to promote awareness.

Among the various programs that the VLP offers is the Learning Garden in addition to an array of youth, teen and adult oriented programs. The Learning Garden first opened in spring of 2002. It took 50 volunteers and 134 man-hours to complete the garden’s landscape, which includes a dozen trees and hundreds of plants in addition to

various places to sit and relax. The garden also has an herb garden sub-section with various plants aimed at informing VLP patrons of the different medicinal and cooking uses for herbs.

The Learning Garden also has its own Children’s Garden which encourages youngsters to participate in the complete

gardening experience from designing the garden’s aesthetic to maintaining it on a regular basis. Containing cucumbers, lettuce and peppers of various hues, the garden provides children the opportunity to see how the food they typically eat grows. The garden is also home to a functional rain barrel. The rain barrel collects rainwater from the roof of the VLP and stores it for the children’s use in the garden.

Do your service to the Charles Village community or just to the VLP by visiting, getting a library card or just telling someone about this awesome place.

For more information about either volunteering or the resources provided by the VLP, visit <http://oil-lagelearning-place.org>.



The Village Learning Place is conveniently located on Saint Paul, near Margaret Brent Elementary School.

Long-forgotten histories of Homewood buildings

By **HEATHER BARBAKOFF**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

It’s already January, so by now the freshmen have gotten the hang of wandering around campus, and the seniors are screaming to be let out. But how many of the newbies and seasoned soon to be “old-bies” know the history behind the buildings they dash to each morning? Chances are, relatively few. Thankfully, *News-Letter’s* got your back. Here are the histories of some prominent buildings and the more obscure; perhaps the next race to class will contain thoughts other than “I hope I’m not late” and praying you don’t fall.

While the Gilman basement radiators answer the TA’s questions, eyes seem to wander toward the windows. For those classrooms in the south of Gilman Hall, students can see the lovely Decker Gardens. Surrounded by the Greenhouse, Nichols House (where President and Mrs. Brody live) and the Johns Hopkins Club, the Decker Gardens were originally used by the biology department for botanical research. In 1958 the Botanical Gardens, as they were then called, were then re-landscaped as the Nichols House was constructed. A final redecoration was performed in 1976 when the garden received its current name after Alonzo G. Decker Jr. who raised over \$109 million for the Johns Hopkins Hospital and University through the Hopkins Hundred Fundraising Drive.

The current garden’s most prominent structure is the statue in the middle of its wishing pool. Entitled the *Sea Urchin*, it was created by the artist Edward Berge and had stood for 34 years in Mount Vernon near the Washington Monument; it was replaced by a replica that was more to scale with the majority of its surroundings and

the original was given to Paul M. Higinbotham who later donated the piece to Hopkins. The Decker Gardens remain a popular location on the Homewood Campus; it is the sight of Spring Fair’s “Beer Garden” as well as a serene location to study in the warmer months.

At one point in time — 1902, in fact — Hopkins had its very own White House. Hopkins’ original campus was in downtown Baltimore, between North Howard and North Eutaw Streets. In the mid-1900s, the University had grown in size and could no longer be contained upon the downtown campus, so the current Homewood campus was constructed on Charles Carroll Jr.’s former estate.

At the time of the land’s purchase there stood an old farmhouse called “The White House.” It was originally located at the current Remsen Hall but was moved in 1908 to the Botanical Gardens as a place for the gardener to live. Not merely content to let the building be, the Psychology Department moved to Homewood from what is now Homewood Hospital North in 1931, and the Child’s Institute then occupied the building. After the institute closed in the late 1930s, the building was used by

CONTINUED ON PAGE B5



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER
Decker Garden continues to offer a break from a hectic day.

Snipping away at circumcision myths

Like most college students, I found myself scrambling through the mall on Christmas Eve attempting to grab gifts and shuttle them home to be quickly wrapped. It was there that I heard a group of pre-teen girls giggling in the corner.

Attempting to look inconspicuous, they stared with saucer eyes into the pages of a sex book. “Wait! What is that?” one girl exclaimed. “It just doesn’t look normal. Do you think it’s diseased?” another retorted with a mixture of disgust and curiosity. The third lip-glossed girl rolled her eyes and said, “No! It’s just uncircumcised.”

For those who have yet to see an uncircumcised fellow, allow me to give you a mental image. Picture a normal erect penis and then imagine the head tucked away in a fleshy cave. The head of the penis is hidden underneath a thin, loose layer of skin, similar to that of the inner labia. It has a hood-like quality giving it the appearance of an anteater snout.

Penises are normally shown as

circumcised in textbooks, movies and porn. So your first encounter with his “pig in a blanket” may be a bit shocking.

The ancient practice of circumcision dates to the beginning of civilization as depicted in cave drawings and Egyptian tombs. The procedure is mainly associated with Judaism, as religious law requires its practice on all infant boys.

In modern American society, circumcision has become popular among all ethnic groups. In 2003, 55.9 percent of infant boys lost their foreskin shortly after birth. It is the most common neonatal procedure in America. For those studying abroad, you’ll discover a greater abundance of foreskin as only 20 percent of Australian infants and 0.41 percent of British infants are circumcised.

The American Academy of Pediatrics reported some differences between sexual sensation of circumcised and uncircumcised penises. “A survey of adult males using self-report suggests more varied sexual practice and less sexual dysfunction in circumcised adult men. There are anecdotal reports that penile

sensation and sexual satisfaction are decreased for circumcised males.”

Not only are uncircumcised males said to achieve greater sexual pleasure, they are reported as being wilder in bed! While the legitimacy of this report is questioned by the American Academy of Family Physicians, it still gives a girl something to think about.

Most girls don’t realize that uncircumcised penises need special treatment. The foreskin is very delicate and should be handled carefully. This loose skin can retract over the head back onto the shaft. This exposes the head giving the appearance of a circumcised penis. The foreskin doesn’t retract easily and if done too forcefully, it can actually be painful.

When pulling the foreskin onto the shaft be gentle and push it slowly down until it pops over the head. It would be good to ask your male partner how far back he wants the foreskin to be pulled or have him instruct you on how to handle it.

Foreskin provides new and



MATT HANSEN/NEWS-LETTER

different ways to approaching hand jobs and blowjobs. It actually acts as a natural lubricant as it slides up and down the head.

While pleasing your uncircumcised man, there are certain ways to use the foreskin to enhance his sexual experience. After pulling the loose skin over the head, use a lubricated finger in the space between the head and the foreskin to stimulate the sensitive skin.

If you want to take things even further, you could use your tongue to tease the delicate tissue. After further lubricating the shaft with your tongue, you can slide the foreskin downward while inserting the newly exposed head farther into your mouth. When the foreskin is

folded back, massage it gently as you continue to please him orally. Some guys find it pleasurable for their partner to slide the foreskin up and down over the head with the mouth. This is accomplished by varying the amount of suction with your throat. With regard to actual intercourse, whether he is circumcised does not make a difference for the girl. Allow the guy to choose if he wants his foreskin up or down during intercourse.

While your first glance at foreskin may give you a bit of a jolt, it’s nothing to gag over. Don’t be afraid to experiment with this sensitive skin. You could discover a whole new pleasure spot for your man with a more complete package.

FEATURES



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.FASHIONTRIBES.TYPEPAD.COM](http://WWW.FASHIONTRIBES.TYPEPAD.COM)
The new year in fashion brings visionary, unexpected creations to the runway.

The new year brings a new generation of futuristic fashion

As any fashion fiend can attest, the most delightful gift a new year imparts is the fresh fashion palette that accompanies it. As the post-holiday sales wind down and the unwanted merchandise is flung from boutiques like last season's Jimmy Choos, a surge of energy once more envelops the fashion landscape giving us that new beginning we crave during the first month of the calendar year. And never could this new beginning be so bright.

If the fashions of 2006 could be broadly characterized as "romance meets minimalism with a brief affair with gauche," those for 2007 couldn't be more dissimilar.

No doubt we've rung in a new year, but it seems an ever-progressive pack of designers have taken it upon themselves to also ring in a new generation.

Yes, it seems we've made the leap from 2006 to 2026, with fashion houses from Dolce and Gabbana to Hussein Chalayan and Jil Sander flooding their showrooms with entirely futuristic creations.

At the head of the futuristic-fashion-pack is Nicolas Ghesquiere for Balenciaga, who undoubtedly drew his inspiration from outer space. From clear-plastic goggle glasses to bold metallic pants and platforms, the Balenciaga woman is as otherworldly as she is fiercely untouchable.

And it is this untouchable quality that resonates so strongly among the latest designer collections, particularly among the fabrics and materials being used. To sum it up in one word: synthetics. From plastic to Lucite and all things patent, designers are mixing laboratory-born materials with silk, leather and cottons to create a wholly unique set of garments.

We have latex tops accented with hard plastic shoulder cuffs, sky-high wedges composed of Lucite and patent leather and

metallic tent dresses with plastic eyelet detailing — a unique collection indeed.

So what underlying social current is driving this new aesthetic we see?

The knee-jerk response might be a recollection of the 1980s where designers like Herve Leger showcased geometric prints and studded leather and latex pants were au courant. But unlike the '80s, today's space-age look and synthetics are not quite as harsh and dominatrix-like as their predecessor.

What we're seeing is not overtly sexual in the way the '80s did synthetics, where patent one-piece suits were paired with hooker boots and the optional whip. Today's designers seem to employ these alternative materials in a manner that respectfully balances feminist underpinnings with

a truly fashion-centric intent. The woman of the spring/summer collections is strong, warrior-like and sexy while simultaneously seeking no validation or praise from man. This is a "sexy without the sex" set of designs, if you will — foreplay only. This woman knows who she is and dresses for herself.

While "galactic, space-age warrior" is positively the most prevalent theme for spring/summer, non-takers need not fret. As always, designers also paid homage to a slew of unrelated styles. Notably it seems sport is en vogue once again, with D'Squared, Marni and Jean Paul Gaultier among the top designers to showcase unique renditions of track pants, "sneaker platforms," anoraks, visors and jerseys. Sporty Spice, you are now welcome back from fashion purgatory.

Romanticists and floral pattern devotees will rejoice in the plethora of traditionally feminine designs that showered the spring/summer runways. Embellished onto chiffon or woven into brocade designs, floral print harkens the spring.

And the dress aficionado can take her pick from nearly any rendition ever spun on the classic staple. From shift to tent to mini, parachute and the evening gown, dresses have never been so varied and prolific.

So whether you favor the envelope-pushing paranormal or traditionally feminine cuts and creations, there is a look for every fashionista this spring — 2007 will be a very good year indeed.

By MICHELLE LAI
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

At the beginning of every year we have the tradition of making New Year resolutions. I, personally, was finished with that eons ago because my mentality is: Why make promises to yourself that you obviously can't keep?

When you see a piece of that perfectly iced chocolate cake, in

all its glory, just resting on that pedestal waiting for you to devour it, the thought of "No, I really shouldn't" dashes through your head with celerity.

But in the end you always decide that the rich, chocolatey goodness now on your tray belongs in your mouth and not in some other freshman's. The guilt trip subsequently ensues.

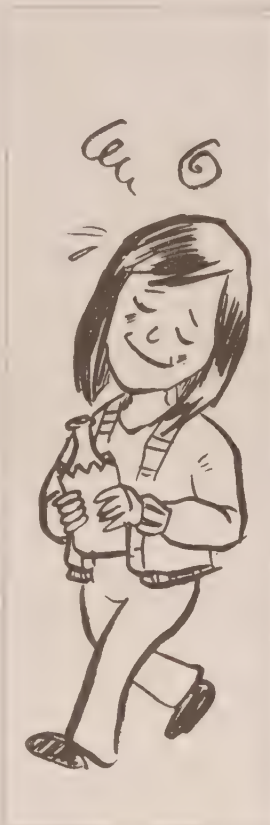
Not only have you broken your New Year resolution, but

you feel grossly stuffed with 500 extra empty calories. Then you think, "Maybe I can fulfill my second resolution — working out at the gym." But honestly, who do we think we're kidding here?

Despite much aggravation and pessimism that has evolved from these ephemeral New Year resolutions that usually last at most until February, there are some sticklers out there out

there lurking around campus with so much resolve that they think that they can beat the system and actually keep their resolutions.

Hopefully some of the following resolutions may inspire those of you who still believe in the magic of the new year to make some of your own goals because, in the end, we're all in it for the personal growth, right?



THE SHOULD-BE LEADER OF THE PACK FOR ALCOHOLICS
ANONYMOUS

1. To make sure the Schnapp Shop lady behind the bulletproof glass case doesn't smile so widely when you walk in because she knows that you're going to be spilling some mad cash on alcohol.
2. Not to get written up.
3. To make sure people can tell the difference between your sober self and your inebriated self.
4. To make real friends who don't just use you for your liquor stash. True friends can be found.
5. To cut down your drinking days to only Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Sunday should be for God. And adding Monday to the mix would be too much alcohol, seriously now.

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THE I'M SO RIDICULOUSLY GOOD LOOKING

1. To make sure people take you seriously.
2. Not to obsessively check out your own reflection when in close proximity to some sort of reflective surface.
3. To get a pimple — just to experience what normal people have been talking about for all these years.
4. To feel for those who are not as aesthetically pleasing as yourself.



THE GRANOLA/HIPPY-NOUVEAU

1. To only wear vegan accessories.
2. To escalate the issue of "no incense" in dorm rooms.
3. To cleanse your aura and those of others.
4. To use some sort of material other than hemp.
5. To smoke some sort of material other than hemp, no more than twice daily.

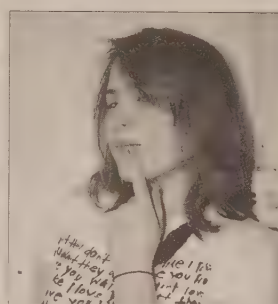


THE COUCH POTATO CIRCA FOREVER

1. To get off the couch for at least an hour each day.
2. To make sure you're not in the same position after an eight-hour marathon of *Golden Girls*.
3. To cut your daily calorie limit to 4000.
4. To Febreeze the couch. If you're ambitious, to reupholster the couch, or simply to get a new one.

ALL GRAPHICS BY WILLIAM PARSCHALK

HOT AT HOPKINS



-WHITNEY SHAFFER-
Hometown: Philadelphia, Pa.
Major: Art History, Museum and Society
Year: Junior

Sometimes cheesy flattery isn't the best way to a girl's heart. Take Whitney Shaffer, for example, a 5-foot-7-inch, brown-eyed girl who's not afraid to give it to you straight. She doesn't mind telling you

her hair isn't dirty blonde, but instead, "straw-mud." She also doesn't mind telling you that no matter what you do for her, she'll never love you as much as she loves art.

But artwork isn't the be-all-end-all with this Art History major. Whitney despises not only Thomas Kinkadee's paintings but the man's entire existence. Sorry guys, but you'd better hope that flashing light bulb/lighthouse landscape, mixed-medium atrocity you just bought is refundable. The real way to score with this Philadelphia native is to stare at her with a spine-tingling gaze. Or, less creepily, make her laugh.

What she's looking for is a smart guy with a sharp wit and enough self-confidence to match her own. So if you're not Botticelli you'd better be Belushi, but even then nothing is guaranteed. When asked about first

dates, Whitney answers with a sports euphemism that suggests this girl has got a tough defense.

When not listening to the noisy punk rock of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs or thinking out loud, Whitney's usually busy with her sorority (Delta Xi Phi), the Hopkins Symphony Orchestra and being the victim of "drive-by floristing."

And, of course, loathing poor hygiene. If you happen to be the kind of guy who "picks his nose then eats the products," or the poor soul with the misfortune of "smelling like rot," then steer clear.

So if you're the type who would want to go on a unique and quirky date with this single girl, think about hitting her up with a surprise bouquet, on the hood of her car. Oh, and be sure to leave the coconuts behind.

Resolved to be the one to make the first move this year? Start off on the right foot by nominating them for Hot at Hopkins! E-mail jhufeatures@hotmail.com to get their name in the paper.

He'll climb into your heart, this one, with his dark brown hair and eyes and 5-foot-9-inch frame. He will someday be spending his free time looking at brains, but now he is content merely to be the Rock Climbing OP Instructor and watching Asian dramas.

He lauds his ability to "take pride in my great, non-masculine personality," but don't be fooled. This cutie wants you to know he has great confidence in his ability to make that statement because of his "rockin' climber's bod." Getting him to go exploring with you might take some patience, as he states, "I'm a huge procrastinator," and once he digs his heels in, stop pushing. "I'm pretty stubborn and close-minded."

Wei knows what he wants and isn't afraid to say so. "People who are just too intense about studying" bug him, but

unfortunately, they "just seem to be everywhere." Also making him wish to climb away are "Arrogant, small-minded fools. I mean, put all three together, and you have an idiot who thinks he or she knows everything and can't see outside that."

This hunk enjoys a spin around the dance floor and his ideal mate would have to want to hoof it too: "Ballroom, especially in the tango." So once you've gotten your arms around him and the flower's in your mouth, what happens next? Well, you've got to get used to him looking totally fabulous — not like that's too hard. "I feel the need to dress unnecessarily nice for no apparent reason." He lists his weirdest habit as, "I used to hit on my boy-friends for the hell of it." Maybe he isn't as close-minded as he thinks...

He's got romance covered. "There was that one time when I swapped one rose from a doz-



-JOHN WEI-
Hometown: East Setauket, N.Y.
Major: Neuroscience
Year: Sophomore

en for a fake one, and added a note with 'I'll love you until the last rose dies.' And this catch seems to have had some luck. "I haven't really been on any terrible dates ... so I guess it's time to go out and sample Hopkins."

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FEATURES

Young comics get their “big break” during Intercession

By DREW LEFKOF
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Nearly 400 people (and the equivalent amount of light fluorescent light bulbs) had their attention directed toward 14 rookie comics in the Bloomberg Auditorium last Friday evening.

As part of his final project for his Intercession stand-up comedy course, sophomore Chris Ludgate stated that his five-minute comedic debut ended before he was ready to give up the microphone.

“I wish I had five more minutes to prepare more material because once people started laughing after my first joke, I wish I had more to tell,” Ludgate said. “It felt like a huge accomplishment after my routine ended, especially since I didn’t think my prepared jokes were very funny while I was re-reading my stuff off-stage.”

Ludgate said that the favorable reactions garnered from his friends, following the show’s conclusions, may prompt him to pursue comedy in the future.

“They told me that when I was on stage I sounded the same way that I sound while telling a funny joke on the couch or in daily life,” he said. “Knowing that I can make people laugh with my stories and observations may bring me to some open mike sessions at some point.”

According to Ludgate, his future routine might include anecdotes and stories about his family, childhood and passion for sports. “I am not embarrassed to make fun of myself, which I think is a good trait for comedy,” he said. “Also, some of my family members have some quirks that I feel I could play with. For example, my godmother takes her role as my godmother way too far and I think I could have some funny material about something like that.”

Senior David Jamison said that he tried to build his routine around a particular comedic style, similar to Chris Rock’s own ability to make light out of

normal situations.

“At my apartment complex, there’s this one disgusting old woman who my friends and I always comment on,” Jamison said. “I have lived there for about a year and a half now and I’ve had a bevy of situations to draw upon to make some humor out of a normal, mundane circumstance.”

For Jamison, observation and anecdotal delivery emerged as styles that made him the most comfortable on stage.

“There were definitely some styles that I couldn’t emulate. They just didn’t work for me,” he said. “I wasn’t able to tell one-liners or pun jokes well for some reason, so I didn’t.”

Ludgate voiced his jealousy for comics like Mitch Hedberg and their one-liner routines.

“I tried to set up my jokes with one-liner punch lines and they just didn’t come out humorously,” he said. “I just felt more comfortable telling a story or anecdote with certain jokes and humorous ends throughout. Also, I felt that by telling a story I could capitalize on my energetic nature; that sort of reminds me of a Dane Cook delivery.”

While partially emulating the exuberance of a Dane Cook performance, Ludgate said that he subconsciously incorporated the idiosyncrasies of other comics he’s watched, such as Jim Gaffigan.

“After a lot of my jokes on stage, I didn’t realize it at the time, but I would finish my punch line and murmur something like, ‘That’s mean, jeez.’ I guess I’ve internalized a lot of weird delivery tactics that some of my favorite comics, like Gaffigan, use.”

According to Jamison, he appreciated the opportunity to perform, as it provided a new arena to discover another talent.

“After the show, most of my friends came up to me and said that they never realized I was so funny before seeing me on stage,” he said. “It sort of brought to light a whole new personality or facet of myself.”

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3
currently occupied by the Office of Counseling and Psychiatric Services.

The domicile of the infamous Barnstormers and lectures by Professor Astin, the Merrick



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER
The Gatehouse holds many aspects of Hopkins’ rich history.

Barn was also an original structure on the Homewood property. Initially a barn for dairy cows, it became the student center during the move from downtown to Homewood. Serving as a dining hall and barbershop, the Barn was the original headquarters of the *News-Letter* and the YMCA. The loft, however, was the domain of a very specific type of Hopkins student group, originally known as the Dramatic Club, who promptly changed their moniker to the Barnstormers. It became the full time theatre for Theatre Hopkins when their original residence was torn down.

The Gatehouse, located on the corner of Art Museum Drive and North Charles Street, was originally known as the Homewood Lodge and marked the entrance to William Wyman’s (of Wyman Park fame) large estate. The De-

partment of Gas Engineering (who knew we had one!) used the building in the 1920s and 1930s. Left alone for a number of years, it was renovated and occupied for a short time by Hopkins’ very own Camera Club. Chemical En-

gineering Department used the building in 1939 for graduate lab space, during which time two students from that department moved into the second floor as their apartment. In October 1965 (here’s the cool part, trust us) the *News-Letter* moved its headquarters into the building, and we remain there today. Feel free to drop in and say hi!

Imagine going to Goucher College or Loyola College and seeing Shriver Hall. It could have happened, had Hopkins’ trustees said no to the conditions under which it had to be constructed. Alfred Jenkins Shriver left the remainder of his estate to Hopkins with instructions to build a lecture hall; in his will, he demanded that the walls of his hall be painted with the Hopkins class of 1891 (his own class), 10 philanthropists of Baltimore, 10 famous beauties of Baltimore (whom Shriver handpicked!), the original Hopkins faculties of both philosophy and medicine, and the Board of Trustees of the University and Hospital at the date of its founding and Baltimore clipper ships (go figure). They also placed statues of Gilman and William H. Welch, the first dean of the School of Medicine, at the entrance to the building (so that’s who those people are). Next time you stop by

Shriver, check out those 10 Baltimore beauties on the walls ... if you can find them!

Just as if you had a date in Constantinople, he would be waiting for you in Istanbul, so would your class in Kreiger be held in Rowland Hall. Originally, the Physics department was housed in the attic of Maryland Hall. Eventually, Hopkins realized that this wasn’t the best and in 1929, they were upgraded to their very own building: Rowland Hall, named for Henry A. Rowland, the first physics professor at Hopkins. Rowland was directly connected to Maryland Hall in 1964, and was renamed in 1990 for Hopkins alumnus Zanvyl Krieger, who

donated a hefty sum to renovate the building to be used by the Krieger Mind/Bain Institute after the physics department upgraded again, this time to the Bloomberg Center. So, next time you’re wandering around campus and someone asks where Kreiger Hall is, you can say, “You mean Rowland Hall?” Just kidding.

There is a surprising amount of information about the buildings here on Homewood. Even more impressive is how much of it is cool trivia to wow your parents with when they come to visit. For more information, refer to the Web site <http://www.library.jhu.edu/collections/specialcollections/archives/buildinghist.html>.



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER
There’s no hay to be found in the Merrick Barn. Currently home to the Barnstormers and Theatre Hopkins, it has been a part of Hopkins from the very beginning.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Nerve Center fills void for local punk fans

By WILLIAM PARSCHALK
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Really nothing more than a row house with an alleyway, the Nerve Center is just one of the many underground venues in the Baltimore-D.C. area that hosts wave after wave of punk bands that are as DIY and true to punk ethics as you're going to get.

It was here this past Saturday that the ever-enchanted and grooving Blackie Knight and the Daylites played their first show after almost three years on hiatus. The group, based in the Silver Spring area outside of Washington, D.C., is comprised of four members, each with his own alias: Blackie Knight on vocals, Beohesohn on bass, Pistol on guitar and Holland on drums. Together they dish out a delicious variety of dance-rock and low-key charisma that, even after almost three years, can still woo a crowd.

The guys played a short set, but the sound was nice and tight despite certain space drawbacks. They mostly played older songs off their first release, *I'm Too Lonely to Keep Singing*, but they threw in some newer ones which captured the same spirit and, for the most part, energy of those earlier ones. Blackie Knight's songs typically feature some witty punch which is incorporated into the show. There are several lines in "Till Death Does Us Apart" where Blackie Knight addresses a lover who has crashed a plane, and at this point Blackie Knight jumped out into the crowd and sang to a female audience member.



COURTESY OF JOSH SISK

Blackie Knight of Blackie Knight and the Daylites pours his energy into the microphone at a recent show at the Nerve Center.

Blackie Knight kept the audience engaged in between songs with his amusing rants on what the year 2007 represents, as well as some tales from his experience as a school teacher, including one where a girl was creating a list of whom to "steal" (Blackie Knight was the only one on the list).

The energy of the show lagged a bit, which Blackie Knight apologized for, despite many shouts, hollers and jumps off the drumset. This wasn't necessarily a drawback, though, given that the show was held in a room the size of a one-car garage, with no

stage. As a result of the compact confines, the space was fairly packed. This is, of course, one of the charms of an underground venue like the Nerve Center.

Everything about the Nerve Center reeks of that eccentric magnetism that people who know how to appreciate Baltimore would find appealing. It is a row house right here on Huntingdon Avenue wedged between two other row houses. Instead of having the dark, smoky club atmosphere of a venue like the Ottobar or Sonar, the Nerve Center offers little more than an upgraded house

party. That makes it nicer and more intimate, since everyone, including the bands, is much more approachable.

There's a nice little refreshments area alongside the old Neo Geo arcade machine. The walls outside the band room are lined with homemade art and posters from cult movies like *A Clockwork Orange* while inside the show space the walls are lined with plywood boards covered in graffiti, featuring such insightful gems as "SLAYER" in huge silver spray paint. Outside, there's even a half-pipe for skateboarding.

The house party vibe is a staple of these types of small, independent punk venues. The Nerve Center falls along the lines of other underground venues such as the Charm City Art Space. While it may not sound appealing to certain types of show-goers, it's exactly this kind of spirit which allows these little communities of DIY to thrive and quietly grow.

Media geeks, freeloaders find online diversions

By SIMON WAXMAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Many of you spent your vacations doing spectacular things. Some visited distant countries. Others did important research, wrote a play or built something extravagant like, maybe, the world's largest Plaster of Paris sculpture of Sophia Loren's legs. I did none of these things. For the most part, I tested out seat cushions.

But all that lazing about gave me time to discover some interesting new Web sites. Of course, I mean "discover" in the way we mean it when we say "Christopher Columbus discovered America," but those of you who have not yet visited these two online attractions should find something new to waste time on as the new semester begins.

The online video craze is hardly news. The proliferation of broadband over the past few years has allowed sites such as YouTube and services like iTunes video to become practically ubiquitous.

The phenomenon is nowhere near as important as the hype suggests — something the editors of *Time* magazine did not realize until they'd been reduced to fodder for ridicule last month. Though, it is certainly making watching video content more convenient.

One relatively unknown entrant into this already crowded arena is <http://www.peekvid.com>, a Web site that looks about as legal as aggravated assault and as legitimate as a Floridian hedge fund. Peekvid streams complete live action TV shows, movies, cartoons, anime, Asian dramas

and movies for free.

The volume of titles on Peekvid is impressive, as is the range. The TV section, for example, features current hits like *24* and *Dexter* as well as more aged fare like *Red Dwarf* and *NewsRadio*. How the MPAA and any number of other entertainment industry bulldogs haven't yet pulled the plug on this project is a good question, but don't expect to find answers on the site. Peekvid has no about page or news or FAQ. There is no contact information or explanation of how the site works. A bit of online sleuthing suggests that the site is based in the Netherlands, but that's not exactly Christmas Island.

Sooner or later, whoever is hosting these files is probably going to be shut down, but until then, the site is yours to enjoy.

Those who delight in the minimalist design paradigm will find

Sooner or later, whoever is hosting these files is probably going to be shut down, but until then, the site is yours to enjoy.

Peekvid doubly satisfying. The ultra-slick slogan "watch videos online" is well suited to a Web site with a color palate that evokes images of polar bears on snowy fields. Peekvid embodies simplicity itself. There is just one advertisement under the video, which users of anything other than Internet Explorer will find easy to block, and you won't notice the clutter and asinine commentary endemic at YouTube on Peekvid. But, while Peekvid is free and relatively instantaneous, a pay service like iTunes or the somewhat more complex Bit Torrent will net you significantly files of significantly higher quality.

Another site is <http://www.damninteresting.com>. I used to

CONTINUED ON PAGE B7

Labyrinth imagines a fantastical reality

Writer and director Guillermo del Toro explores the dark world of a young girl's imagination

By MICHELLE MIANO
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The fantastical world of a girl's imagination and the harsh existence of life in Franco's Spain in the 1940s come together in this new film by writer and director Guillermo del Toro to create an atmosphere where nightmares become reality and vise versa.

The journey begins when the adventurous, book-clutching Ofelia (Ivana Baquero) and her pregnant mother Carmen (Ariadna Gil) travel to stay with the stern and cruel Captain Vidal (Sergi Lopez), Carmen's husband. The audience learns of another story, which seems to be out of the pages of one of Ofelia's books — a story of a princess trying to regain her throne. A voice-over helps us understand the details, which involve the moon-branded Ofelia, who has yet to discover her royal past. Her imagination is as concrete as reality, whether it is the military environment of her stepfather's camp or the fairy disguised as a praying mantis that she sees the first night she is there.

When she decides to follow that fairy, Ofelia discovers the magic of the Labyrinth, which lies just beyond the camp and is formed from ancient stones creeping with damp vegetation. She descends into its depths

and encounters a faun who informs Ofelia of her importance and presents her with a book as an introduction to various tasks that she must complete for him to become her true, royal self.



Though the magic begins in the Labyrinth, it is the within the rest of Ofelia's story where the magic stays.

Night creatures and helpful fairies aren't the only unearthly beings she meets. The remainder of her tasks require face-to-face encounters with disgusting, oversized amphibians and terrible, carnivorous monsters.

During the day, the situation at the camp is not much better, as Captain Vidal needlessly murders anyone he suspects opposes him and orders attacks against the Resistance in the surrounding forest. Ofelia watches as her

mother painfully copes with complications of pregnancy and learns of Captain Vidal's true unemotional attachment to his wife.

The one light in Ofelia's life at the camp is Mercedes (Maribel Verdu), who shows compassion toward the young girl, and is not blind to the harsh policies of the captain. Even though Mercedes acknowledges that she lost faith in fairies and magical beings long ago, she is accepting of Ofelia. They also share secrets with one another, namely that Mercedes' knowledge has a bigger part to play in the outcome of the political tensions than anyone realizes.

Fantasy and reality begin to merge as the faun's book leads her on adventures whose objectives become apparent as she completes each step. The book also begins to predict events in the real world that become influenced by Ofelia's actions in the fantastic world. And Ofelia must continue to operate between working to become a princess and living in insignificance at the base.

Del Toro's work in *Pan's Labyrinth* is as magic as the story. The unworlly characters are as nightmarish as one can imagine as Ofelia navigates through the faun's instructions. Her bravery and the strength of the other female characters shine and prove the meaninglessness with which Captain Vidal labels them untrue. They make more of a difference in their world than the Captain or any of his men claim to be doing.

This is a film portrays the brutality of war-time tactics, the will to combat them and the innocence of a young girl who realizes the power that she has, even when the surrounding world doesn't. It provides a chance to enter another world and a chance to see what one can make of the world in which he or she lives, even after stepping out of the theater.

Clive Owen flexes his acting muscles in Men

By MATT HANSEN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

As an actor, Clive Owen has been known since his breakthrough in Mike Nichols' *Croupier* as a laconic, hangdog presence adept at playing character roles that hinted at leading actor status — tempestuous in *Closer* yet too laid-back for his mythic role in *King Arthur*. As a director, Alfonso Cuarón has been known since his own breakthrough road movie *Y Tu Mamá También* as a director who riffs on sexuality and sex itself, taking inspiration from the illogical things it makes us do — evident in the steamy scenes of *Y Tu Mamá También* but toned down for his *Harry Potter* and *The Prisoner of Azkaban*. In other words, both have always held unrealized potential beneath the surface, waiting to bubble over in a way that would challenge Hollywood conventions — the low-key leading man, the movie with sex on the brain.

Together, Cuarón and Owen have let themselves boil, Hollywood be damned, and in doing so have created *Children of Men*, a film labeled "dystopian," "challenging" and "Blade Runner-esque" but ultimately a movie that aims, despite its bleak depiction of the future, squarely at the present day. The premise is simple, and in its simplicity it shines. Imagine a world hit by a flu — a nasty bug that medicine can't seem to stop from spreading into the industrialized bastions of the First World — a flu that, when it doesn't kill, stops women from having children. With no pregnancies, the world stagnates, chokes, falters and falls apart.

Cuarón's vision of the future has no flying cars or clean, anesthetic lines like Spielberg's *Minority Report*. If anything, it is dirtier and smoggy than ever. Middle-class Londoners like Owen's Theo go about their urban jobs in a monotonous lethargy. The world, it seems, is slower, grimmer and darker without kids, and Theo, a character seemingly



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM](http://www.allmoviephoto.com)

Clive Owen and Claire Hope play guardian to the last hope of human life in *Children of Men*.

etched onto Owen's own lanky frame, sinks into the whiskey flask as he stumbles from office to home, even as the city literally explodes around him.

Children of Men proceeds in this murky, muddy vein as Theo is contacted by the Fishes, a group of terrorists (the film never makes it clear if we are to call them guerrilla, insurgents or freedom fighters) led by his ex-wife Julian, a fiery Julianne Moore, who ask him to help them escort a young and frightened Kee (Claire Hope) by using his links to government to find the necessary transport papers. A short trip to a cousin with connections leads Theo on a dizzy, bloody car chase and links him indelibly with Kee as they spiral downward into the mess of the "fugee" underground — the vast, cancerous camps the British government has established to keep unwanted refugees — out of their dying nation. Though the formula of the reluctant hero has

long since been a staple of screenwriters, Owen's Theo is a moral man with a pragmatic streak, and Kee's revelation that she is pregnant — which Cuarón films almost as a nativity scene in a drafty barn in the British countryside, Kee surrounded by lowing cows and her face a freeze-frame of hope and despair — is all the motivation he, a father who has lost a son, needs.

With just Owen, Hope and Cuarón doing the heavy lifting, the film would be a solid piece of futurist thinking (a sort of intellectual *V For Vendetta*) but thanks to the haunted, wearied actors who accompany Theo and Kee and the washed-out, soiled pastels of cinematographer Emmanuel Lubezki, *Children of Men* transforms from a "what if" quandary to a slap in the face. The future becomes a frightening reflection of our own present thanks to the sheer amount of reality

CONTINUED ON PAGE B8



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM](http://www.allmoviephoto.com)

Ivana Baquero plays the imaginative bookworm, Olivia, in the grotesque world of *Pan's Labyrinth*.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



COURTESY OF TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX
The nine stars of Alan Bennett's award-winning play *History Boys* returned to take their stage roles to the silver screen.

History Boys fails in adaptation

By ALEX BEGLEY
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

On the whole plays should not be made into movies. It is hard to cross the genre barrier successfully without losing the effect of live theater or making the acting look cheesy. *The History Boys* makes a valiant effort to succeed, mostly due to experienced director Nicholas Hytner and the on-screen chemistry of the cast (all of whom comprised the original cast of the play), yet fails in its transition in dialogue and overcrowded plot.

The History Boys started as a play by Alan Bennett — who also wrote the screenplay for the movie — that took British theater by storm before opening on Broadway and snagging Tony Awards for Best Actress, Best Actor, Best Director and Best Play. It is the story of nine boys in Sheffield, England in 1983, who are receiving some special attention (in more ways than one) in preparation for upper level entrance exams. The boys have dreams of Oxford and Cambridge and rugby scholarships and at the same time wrestle, albeit playfully, with their ideas of sexuality and their instructors' different takes on learning.

The film may not be getting the Oscar for Best Movie or Best Director, but the acting, despite the intricate and often florid dialogue, was noteworthy. Most notable was the very British Frances de la Tour. Though her role as a sharp-witted yet lovable teacher Mrs. Lintott was minor, her feminine insight on the goings on at the prep school was indelible. In fact it is her character's dialogue that brings the film and the story of the boys to an end. The two male teachers, Hector (played by Richard Griffiths) and Mr. Irwin (Stephen Campbell Moore), are the film's anchors of conflict.

The two characters represent two different teaching styles and the boys find themselves torn between the blubbering Hector and his insistence on the art of knowledge and proliferation of

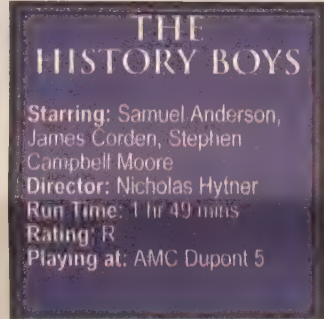
quote-usage versus the intriguing Mr. Irwin who is fresh out of university and ready to teach not just the facts but the art of analysis. Griffiths' character, who reportedly stole the show for the theatrical version, lost some of his character's ebullience in the transition to screen. Hector comes off as awkward and even annoying, though perhaps this is appropriate given the "nobody's perfect" theme to the movie. The audience finds itself losing sympathy for his character rather than rallying around him as the filmmakers, especially given the ending, would

his professors in the ways of life than the others. Hungry for the attention of Dakin and the leadership of his homosexual teachers, Barnett portrays Posner's agonizing process of self-realization with grace.

Jamie Parker takes on the role of Scripps, the tamest and perhaps most easily relatable character. His presence is quiet but powerful as he sprinkles religion and practicality around Dakin's outrageousness.

Where the film gets disappointing is in the culture gaps and in the dialogue's transition from stage to screen. First, there is an extended scene spoken entirely in French, without subtitles for the linguistically impaired. The surprise at the end feels rushed and unnecessary and adds on too many new emotions to the last 10 minutes of the film. Bennett's dialogue makes 1983 England seem more like 1883 England. The boys make more reference to philosophical icons than pop icons (as teenagers are prone to do in any situation). The dialogue comes off a little forced and would work better on the stage than on the grand of a movie set.

The film works in that the filmmakers were presented with the unique opportunity to use the original cast in the movie production. It is a decent record for those who didn't get to see the play. As a movie, though, it is hard to swallow without one keeping in mind that it is an adaptation of a play.



prefer you to feel. Campbell Moore, playing this year's whatelse-have-I-seen-him-in character (the answer here is *Bright Young Things*), is electrifying. His enthusiasm challenges the boys and also intrigues the audience. The constant question of "Is he gay or not?" hangs in the air throughout the entire movie giving his character the subtlety that the other homosexual characters lack.

Three of the boys stand out the most in a cast of nine young male characters. The first of the young historians who stands out if not for his dark features then definitely for his outrageous, pants-dropping attitude, is Dakin. Dominic Cooper gives Dakin just the right amount of cocky confidence to make the audience love him and the other characters envy him.

One of those characters is the desperately love-struck Posner. Samuel Barnett plays the adolescent who has more to learn from

Broadband facilitates easy streaming of shows, movies

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B6
think we would locate Osama Bin Laden before I found a blog worth reading, but that changed when I was introduced to *DamnInteresting*, a Web site that lives up to its name.

Every few days the site is updated with a new exposé on some obscure topic, usually related to history or the sciences (or both). The writers at *DamnInteresting* have been known to comment on matters ranging from giant carnivorous centipedes to Buckminster Fuller's visually bizarre and mechanically nifty dymaxion automobile to the 17th century Dutch obsession with and commodification of tulip bulbs. *DamnInteresting* is the perfect site for the genuinely curious.

Perhaps the most refreshing aspect of the site is the quality of the writing. The majority of blogs,

it seems, are either too poorly written to do justice to their subject or so snarky that one is liable to be trampled under a stampede of wit and irony. Some of the articles on *DamnInteresting* are, admittedly, duds, but most are actually written by competent folks who happen to harbor an abiding interest in the trivial and freakish. I shouldn't sell *DamnInteresting* short though. Their work is engaging, practically addictive; *DamnInteresting* fuses education and entertainment brilliantly. There are few better sites out there for people who just revel in knowing stuff.

Next time you find yourself staring at your computer screen, wondering if you've turned the last page of the internet, check out these two sites. After all, what else would you be doing? Homework?

The Holiday delivers a surprising hit

By HEATHER BARBAKOFF
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

A romantic comedy with Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet and Jude Law — you might be tempted to dismiss *The Holiday* as one of those terrible Christmas chick flicks. But then there's Jack Black; how does the man of Tenacious D fit in there? Surprisingly, quite nicely, as this supposed "chick flick" surpasses the boundaries of the genre to become an authentically heartfelt movie.

Burned by love, British journalist Iris (a positively charming Kate Winslet) decides that the only way to escape her destructive relationship with ex-boyfriend is to sign up for a house-switching vacation service. Across the globe, Amanda (Cameron Diaz), who successfully balances dramatic flair with comedic timing), a workaholic movie trailer producer in Los Angeles, has dramatically parted ways with her cheating boyfriend Ethan. Unable to cry, Amanda finds Iris' picturesque English cottage on a vacation Web site. Within moments, the girls arrange to flee from their own lives and live in the other's home for two weeks.

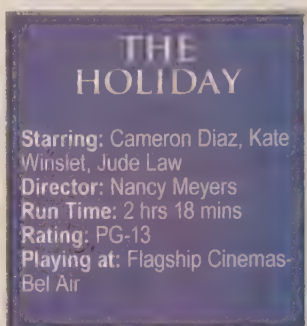
The house-swap is successfully completed and as Iris delights in Amanda's lavish L.A. home, Amanda tries to adjust to the cozy English countryside. After a few hours (and a number of drinks) Amanda is awoken to Iris' older brother, Graham (Jude Law) who requests to stay the night after getting drunk at the nearby pub. In spite of her reservations, Amanda not only acquiesces to Graham's request, but decides in the spirit of her vacation, to engage in a one night stand. Iris enjoys the solitude of Amanda's oasis, faltering only briefly when the ex-faxes a copy of his book manuscript for her review; she quickly recovers until she is blown away by the introduction of Black's character, Miles, a film composer (quite literally; the characters meet in a gust of wind). Miles and Iris connect instantly, despite Miles' dogged devotion to his bimbo up-and-coming actress girlfriend, whom we later discover is cheating on him. Bitten by the philanthropy bug, Iris discovers Aman-

da's elderly neighbor, Arthur Abbott (Eli Wallach) an aging film veteran. As the two weeks pass, Iris and Arthur develop a kindred friendship as they help one another discover their weaknesses and strengths.

The movie's greatest triumph is the development of the characters' relationships. Moving back and forth between the London and Los Angeles locations, at first it seems as though there are two separate movies taking place. Amanda decided that a one night stand with Graham wasn't going to be satisfactory, and the two begin a whirlwind romance despite Amanda's inability to feel completely secure in her new skin and Graham's secretive behavior. For the time being, both are content to enjoy the other's company. Iris continues to spend time with Arthur, learning about the classic era of cinema and her tendency to be a pushover. As the movie progresses, Miles enters Arthur and Iris's secret club, and together, Miles and Iris' relationship evolves into a close friendship based more on their differences than their similarities.

The Holiday is broken into two parts. The first is marked by an escape from love, and the second is the gradual realization that in the end, it isn't so bad. Sounds like the hallmark of the usual Hollywood dribble, but *Holiday* manages to avoid most of these platitudes through the brilliance of its cast. Each role was specifically written for the actor who fills it, and as such, each character draws on the actor's strength.

Winslet's Iris depicts the self-pitying, comically tragic single thirty-something who is unable to see past her faults; Diaz plays the seemingly frivolous, successful diva, Law the suave singleton who has something to hide and Black is his usual lovable, goof-ball self, but wisely eschews the gross-out comedy of his past movies. The pacing is pretty decent, despite a slight lag in the middle, where the plot begins to become a bit cliché. With the help of the cast and sound track, things manage to right themselves and the movie resolves nicely, with the correct balance between the requisite sappy and a refreshing bit of wit. While more screen time could have been devoted to the development of Iris story line and less to Amanda's (it was clear that Diaz is the movie's headliner). *The Holiday* is an enjoyable film for those wishing to see a movie where everything turns out all right at the end, but for a moment there's the panic that maybe things won't always be what they seem.



THE HOLIDAY
Starring: Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet, Jude Law
Director: Nancy Meyers
Run Time: 2 hrs 18 mins
Rating: PG-13
Playing at: Flagship Cinemas-Bel Air



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM
Cameron Diaz and Jude Law develop a friendly relationship amid a transatlantic house-swap.

Curse of the Golden Flower's grandiosity captivates viewers

By MATT HANSEN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

There's an argument that *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* gave American audiences a taste of a martial arts that took the Bruce Lee school of fighting and gave it swords while taking away gravity, and that it did more harm than good to the Chinese film industry. From *Hero* to *The House of Flying Daggers* to, now, *The Curse of the Golden Flower*, Chinese film has become mainly synonymous for outlandish characters and lavish fight scenes.

Much of this can be credited to one man, Yimou Zhang, who directed all three of those films hand-in-hand with some of Hollywood's best cinematographers and China's finest fight choreographers. Though he returned in 2006 to his more understated roots by directing *Riding Alone For Thousands of Miles*, it seemed Yimou needed a shot of adrenaline once more and set out to make *Golden Flower*, which ended up becoming the most expensive Chinese film ever made to date. Glance at any scene and you can see why.

Chinese grand dame actress Gong Li, as the Empress Phoenix, is swathed in a luxurious silken wardrobe that revels in hand embroidered patterns and heavy

earrings and pendants, wisping between rooms surrounded by a miasma of colored tapestries. Her sons Prince Jie (Jay Chou), Prince Xiang (Ye Liu) and Prince Cheng (Junjie Qin) skitter about the palace in equally extravagant outfits, and all four are attended to by a cast of hundreds of servants, doctors, guards and concubines, each division of whom wears a distinct uniform and carries out particular responsibilities.

With the entrance of the Emperor, a nearly unrecognizable Chow Yun-Fat hidden behind a wispy beard and mustache, the entire process reaches a fever pitch. The first half-hour of the film

is akin to eating a rainbow swirl lollipop slowly. Needless to say, after the bombardment of lyrical Chinese, well-timed gongs, sliding and unrolling tapestries, the lollipop begins to give you a serious sugar headache. Yet the saccharine nature of the elaborate costumes, labyrinthine sets and lustrous score seems to have a point — it disguises the soap opera plot that goes on behind the scenes.

As two of China's most famed and recognized actors, Gong Li and Chow Yun-Fat seem oddly disjointed mouthing the clumsy lines and performing the grand sweeping motions called upon

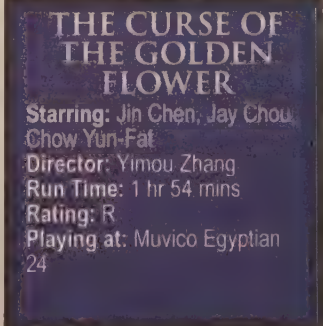
them by a script seeking to ring of Chinese classical poetry but instead sounding tritely like Chinese daytime television. The plot, though unnecessarily convoluted, revolves around the Empress being poisoned by the Emperor, whose former wife is seeking to get even while the kids scheme for the throne. With every gulp of poison, Gong Li becomes more and more a caricature of Lady Macbeth and Chow Yun-Fat the stereotypical Chinese emperor — blustery, spouting witticisms and gifted with a funny beard.

While Yimou provides no shortage of acrobatics, he re-

serves his show-stopping battle scenes for the film's last hour, when the various princes divide into factions and gather their individual armies for a climactic showdown against their father, who strokes his mustache and makes ominous-sounding proclamations. Critics compared the battle scenes in *Golden Flower* to those of the *Lord of the Rings* series, but *Rings* director Peter Jackson had CGI on his side. Yimou, instead, seemingly outfits thousands of extras in period armor and weapons, then sets them loose against thousands more — a kid playing with action figures brought to life.



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM
Quin Junjie and Gong Li star as Prince Cheng and the Empress in *Golden Flower*.



THE CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
Starring: Jin Chen, Jay Chou, Chow Yun-Fat
Director: Yimou Zhang
Run Time: 1 hr 54 mins
Rating: R
Playing at: Muvico Egyptian 24

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Eastwood's Iwo Jima reveals the commonalities of men

By PATRICK KENNEDY
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Even as he has moved through the roster of traditional American genres, Clint Eastwood has maintained a directorial aesthetic rooted in a few consistent concerns: the pain of personal history, the conflict between duty and identity, and above all, the acceptance of death. Films as disparate as his revisionist western *Unforgiven* and his small-town thriller *Mystic River* are not simply marked by the same laconic yet intimate cinematic style. On some fundamental level, each of these late masterworks is also a potent meditation on mortality which plunges an audience into a world of sympathetic characters and inevitable pathos.

At first glance, a movie like *Letters from Iwo Jima* would seem to represent the elevation of its director's staple preoccupations to an epic, blindingly monumental scale. While re-

lationships between a few key characters have motivated the veteran filmmaker's strongest work, Eastwood's latest drama revolves around a confrontation that lasted 36 days and consumed almost 30,000 Japanese and American lives. Yet *Letters* emerges as the most intellectually astute and rewardingly humane work in its director's canon by exploring a much more expansive narrative territory.

Taken from a script by novice screenwriter Iris Yamashita and consisting of dialogue mainly in Japanese, the film focuses on the isolated and badly outnumbered Japanese soldiers sent to defend the volcanic island of Iwo Jima. Expecting not to live to see their homeland, much less to prove victorious against 110,000 U.S. marines, the Empire's fighters lived under two simple principles — to kill at least 10 Americans before dying, and to accept death instead of personal defeat.

Such rules are never attended by editorial judgment in *Letters*, and are seldom openly related to politics beyond the island. Instead, the ideals that govern life within the bleak microcosm of Iwo Jima are stated firmly and briefly, reiterated mainly through stories of personal downfall, several of which are derived from Japanese letters unearthed on the island a few years ago.

The most fully-formed of Eastwood's narratives concern two characters who serve as obvious foils for one another, and whose paths cross with confounding frequency in Yamashita's screenplay. The first, General Kuribayashi (a brilliant

Ken Watanabe), was appointed to provide defenses for the entire island. Loyal to his country, but also an innovative strategist well-acquainted with America's military, he developed a system of tunnels through the island's rock that allowed the Imperial forces to avoid an easy defeat. At the opposite end of the military hierarchy, an affable young baker named Saigo (Kazunari Ninomiya) spends most of the film hoping that he will survive his tour of duty to return to his wife. Instead of suggesting cowardice, he speaks more to the sense of confusion that an unimposing, peaceable man would feel in a miniature culture of death.

Like Oliver Stone's Vietnam War sagas, or, more recently, *Saving Private Ryan*, *Letters from Iwo Jima* develops a monomaniacal focus on the experiences of its lead characters, though unlike these entertainments, it is much more wary of cinematic bravado. Life on the island's black sand and rocky hills is filmed in a palette nearly devoid of color, which should be familiar from *Flags*

of *Our Fathers*, the earlier half of Eastwood's Iwo Jima diptych. Even more stunning is how director of photography Tom Stern uses his camerawork to mirror the breakdown of military and emotional order that afflicts the Japanese. The battle sequences, appropriately, become rapid and haphazard, making the opening shots of the terrain in its present-day repose retrospectively poignant.

Nonetheless, *Letters from Iwo Jima* remains, from first frame to last, a precarious project. Eastwood, indeed, avoids many of the clichés of the war film genre, and the few times when he lapses into sentimentality — Kuribayashi's glad reunion with an aristocratic friend on the island beach, Saigo's distraught discovery of a dead comrade — are so intelligently placed that they improve the movie's rhythm. But is it possible that the film, in suggesting the valor and humanity of men who stood on the wrong side of history, has proffered a type of "noble enemy" that is itself a cliché?

Ultimately, the characters in

Letters from Iwo Jima are never meant to burst into full life. Men like Saigo strain against life at war because it cannot accommodate their benevolence, while a commander like Kuribayashi, from the principles of loyalty and patriotism that are a soldier's ultimate good, can find himself unconsciously propagating political evil. Eastwood should not need to remind his audience who the true heroes of Iwo Jima were. The tragedy of his film is that, when Americans look into the lives of their justified enemies, it is not impossible to find the values and virtues that are our own.

Cuaron revels in his film's ambiguities

CONTINUED FROM B6

poured into the scenes — the actors look and talk like our neighbors and the world looks and sounds like our world, with its tightening, choking borders. Michael Caine's Jasper, a 60-ish New Age intellectual and Theo's closest confidante, combs the hair of his catatonic wife, grows marijuana and listens to plaintive Italian Rolling Stones covers. Within the fugee camp of Bexhill, a cement and cinderblock hell that combines the worst imagery of the Balkans wars and abandoned Soviet apartment blocks, the scenes become almost echoes of the exhausted images of Baghdad or Srebrenica or Somalia that have flickered across our TV sets and briefly nestled in our short attention spans over the last 10 years, except all the languages and cultures and religions and people that bloodied the ground fighting for dominance are all contained within one burning city. As Theo and Kee flee the city, Cuaron and Lubezki produce some of the most vivid, jarring imagery of what war does to a place since Cimino's *The Deer Hunter* presented Vietnam's dark heart.

Cuaron refuses to gratify his audience with a clean-cut resolution. Instead, he ends with a scene that dissolves into the mist of a foggy British evening, hinting at both the terrible and the beautiful at once.



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM
Ken Watanabe plays General Kuribayashi in *Letters*.



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM
A young Ryo Kase portrays Shimizu in Clint Eastwood's vivid and groundbreaking World War II era film *Letters from Iwo Jima*.

LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA

Starring: Ken Watanabe, Kazunari Ninomiya, Tsuyoshi Ihara
Director: Clint Eastwood
Run Time: 2 hrs 20 mins
Rating: R
Playing at: AMC Owings Mills 17

CHILDREN OF MEN

Starring: Clive Owen, Julianne Moore, Michael Caine
Director: Alfonso Cuarón
Run Time: 1 hr 48 mins
Rating: R
Playing at: Kentlands Stadium 10

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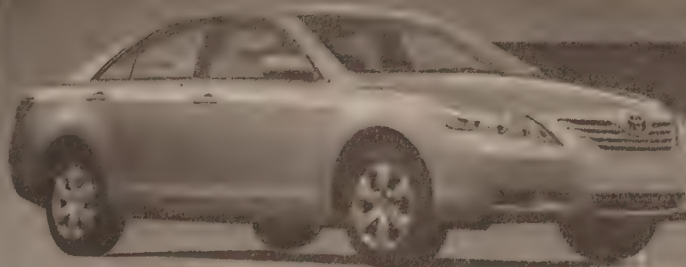
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CARTOONS, ETC.




Aries: (March 21 - April 19)
Cow urine, otherwise known as milk, is such a tasty treat. Oh, you didn't know milk was cow urine? Well, consider yourself informed.




Taurus: (April 20 - May 20)
Bo Derek used to be pretty hot, until she popped out a couple kids and put some slack in the sack, if you know what I'm saying. No? Oh, OK.




Gemini: (May 21 - June 20)
Yawn, yawn, yawn. I could really care less about all your "problems." Call me when you wake up and smell the WEIGHT LOSS, fatty!




Cancer: (June 21 - July 22)
Is that smell really what I think it is? Yeah, yeah it is what I think it is. Originally I thought it wasn't what I thought it was, but apparently it is.




Leo: (July 23 - Aug. 22)
Now that you've gotten over your fear of the unknown, stop being afraid of the monsters hiding in your girlfriend's vagina and have sex with it.




Virgo: (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
The best way to make friends is with gifts, money and ultimatums. Believe me, people love ultimatums. Especially involving rape!




Libra: (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)
Editor seeking smart SWF with an interest in journalism. Must also enjoy wiping poop off her face with an old newspaper.




Scorpio: (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)
In my country, we sing praises of man who save woman from burning fire, so that he can make her landscape his puberty for rest of life!




Sagittarius: (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Beef is the number one cause of fart attacks in the United States. Beef cake, on the other hand, is the number one cause of happiness.



Capricorn: (Dec. 23 - Jan. 19)
Of all the people I know, you are the most selfish, egotistical house plant I have ever met. Screw you and your needy fake nasturtiums.



Aquarius: (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
Moosjusthappensometimes. I know a cow whose GI tract can't handle chocolate OR peanuts. Needless to say, Reese's Pieces are deadly.



Pisces: (Feb. 19 - March 20)
Letter writers can be great friends, but beware of pen pals: Sometimes they come looking for you, and it turns out they're not exactly "legal."

Enter The Sudoku

by Matt Hansen

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The diaries of K. Fed, unearthed

Unless something notable happens in the next 93 years, it's safe to say that the breakup of Britney Spears and Kevin Federline was the most significant event of the 21st century. She was a pop star, and he was a dancer/model/actor/rapper/wrestler. You can't really get more compatible than that. But then, last November, Britney filed for divorce, citing "irreconcilable differences." To shed some light on the issue, I have managed to obtain exclusive, never-before-seen excerpts from the private journal of Mr. Federline himself. You're probably wondering how I could have done this. Well, it just so happens that I know a guy who knows a guy. And this guy, he knows another guy. But THAT guy, oh man. That guy doesn't know anybody.

FROM THE PRIVATE JOURNAL OF KEVIN FEDERLINE

1/23/05
The other day, I was perusing the collected works of René Descartes (whom I previously took to be a reputable philosopher) when I happened upon his *Meditations on First Philosophy*. Descartes begins the *Meditations* by renouncing all his previously held beliefs as potentially false. My initial reaction was unrestrained glee; finally, I thought to myself, a true skeptic! I was invigorated. However, to my horror, Descartes then proceeds to rebuild his reality by attempting to prove the existence of God! What sorcery is this? It should be obvious to anyone, especially fans of my wife, Britney Spears, that there is no possible way to prove the existence of the divine through the mundanity of secular logic. Such extrapolations border on the heretical.

Suffice it to say, I set that damned book on fire, then used the flames to light my opium pipe.

5/12/05
I was watching television last

night with my beloved wife, pop superstar Britney Spears, when one of her "music-related videos" came on. I don't recall the title of it (something about infants), but I do remember noting the extreme amount of sexuality depicted in the video. My wife and her dancing cohorts were scantily clad, moving around in suggestive ways. I began to ruminate on the intrinsic carnality of man, the constant tension between the id and the superego. I turned to Britney.

"Have we not yet learned to tame the inner beast?" I exclaimed. "Are we no more than mere slaves to desire? And from where do we derive this fascination with the female breast? Is it evolutionarily advantageous, as some have theorized?"

Matt Diamond One Fry Short

She burped, then fell asleep.

9/14/05
Our first child, Sean Preston, was born today. I wanted to name him Arnold Franz, after the pioneering 20th century composer Arnold Franz Schoenberg, my musical inspiration. However, my wife, fashion icon and sex symbol Britney Spears, was opposed. She doesn't share my affection for 12-tone music. I truly can't comprehend her resistance to the genre; how can she fail to hear the inherent beauty in such a fractured harmonic language? Is she daft?

1/1/06
Po, po, po, po, PopoZão! PopoZão!

3/27/06
I am troubled by what appears to be a growing rift in my marriage to cultural phenomenon and global trendsetter Britney Spears. For example, the other day she seemed appalled by my

suggestion that I expose our young Sean Preston to the complete filmography of Jean-Luc Godard in place of that *Teletubbies* garbage. She had the same reaction when I tried to substitute *The Sound and the Fury* for *Goodnight Moon*. Christ, is it so wrong to have standards these days?

5/10/06
Today I solved the Riemann hypothesis and nobody cared.

9/28/06
After dosing myself with 300 micrograms of lysergic acid diethylamide, I have come to the realization that the flow of spacetime is completely arbitrary and relative only to itself. I also discovered that I have the ability to phase through and merge with solid objects. This will no doubt be useful during my upcoming fight against WWE Champion John Cena.

I have also concluded that my wife, molecular biologist and celebrated astronaut Britney Spears, is in fact a pan-dimensional being sent from hell, love-child of the dark lord Satan and his unholy bride, comedian Joan Rivers. This is discouraging, to say the least.

11/5/06
I fear that my marriage is coming to an end. I can barely stand the sight of my wife, mythical sea creature and natural rock formation Britney Spears. I used to recite the poetry of John Donne to her while we made love; now she's been downgraded to William Carlos Williams. How trite. I only hope our impending divorce isn't too rough on young Sean Preston, as well as that other kid that Britney had two months ago whose name I can't remember.

In other news, I released my debut album this week, entitled *Playing With Fire*. It's a concept album about the unification of Italy. Pretty sure this one's a winner.

Matt Diamond is twice divorced from reality and can be contacted at mdiamond@jhu.edu.

Trucker Tales with Riley Wiltshire

by William Parschalk

HOWDY BROTHER, GRAB A SEAT. I GOT SOME YARNS I'D LIKE TO SPIN 'FER YOU.

MY NAME IS RILEY, RILEY WILTSHIRE.

I'M A DRIVER BY PROFESSION - TRUCKER, IF YOU WILL -

AND THOUGH I AINT A CHURCH-GOING MAN, I THANK THE BIG DUDE FOR SOME CRAZY TALES.

LIKE THIS ONE ABOUT DEAN JONES, THE SOUTHERN SCOUNDREL OF '72.

JONES OPERATED UP AND DOWN THE CAROLINAS.

ONLY 19, JONES SUCCESSFULLY ROBBED QUICK-STOP.

AFTER QUICK-STOP.

BY THAT SUMMER HIS NAME WAS NOTORIOUS.

THE COPS SIMPLY COULDN'T CATCH THE KID.

JONES HAD A GOOD MIX OF LUCK AND SKILL ON HIS SIDE.

QUICK-FIX

BUT ALL THAT WENT SOUR THE MOMENT HE MET GARTH DURER.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

Toad Detective

by Matt Hansen

ALRIGHT, HE'S ARMED AND DANGEROUS, SO BE ON THE LOOKOUT!

M-MY BANK! IT'S BEEN ROBBED!


YEAH, WHAT A PETITUL STORY.

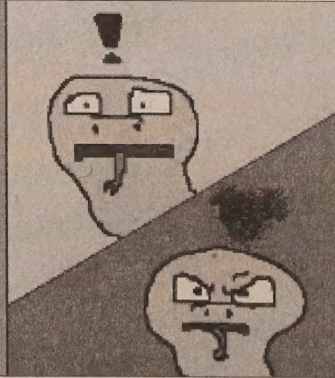
LOOK AT THIS, WILL YAF? IT'S THE TOAD DETECTIVE!

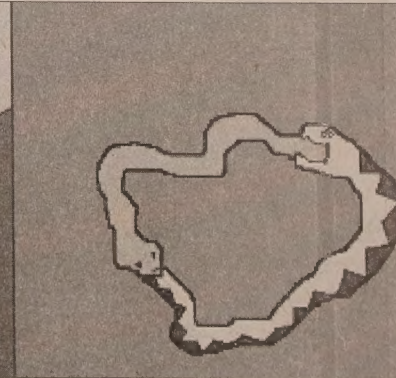
PETITUL WAS RIGHT. HERE I WAS HANDCUFFED ON THE FLOOR, ARRESTED FOR A CRIME I DIDN'T EVEN COMMIT. AH, LIFE.

Wasted Ink

by Nate Min



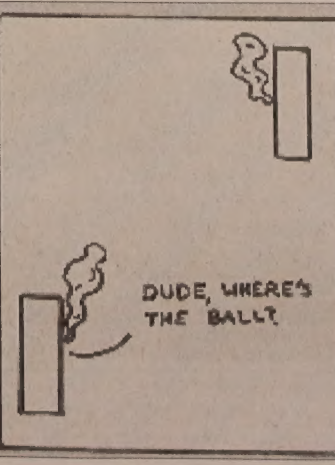




Rapidly Sinking Sharpie

by Matt Hansen

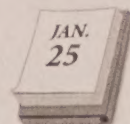
BONG



DUDE, WHERE'S THE BALL?

CALENDAR

CALENDAR JAN. 25-JAN. 31



See Pissarro in his prime at the BMA

The Baltimore Museum of Art's latest exhibition pays homage to French Impressionist painter Camille Pissarro. The exhibit, called *Pissarro: Creating the Impressionist Landscape*, is set to open on Sunday, Feb. 11. Boasting a collection of nearly 50 paintings, this will be the BMA's first exhibition focusing on the artist who is sometimes referred to as the "Father of Impressionism." The BMA has received these works from museums and collections worldwide. Some, in fact, have seldom been available for public viewing.

The exhibit primarily showcases Pissarro's work from the mid-1860s to the mid-1870s, a prolific and significant period of his career. During this time, Pissarro diverged from the path of more conventional artists to pursue the technique now known as Impressionism which emphasizes the presence of natural light in a scene and aims to portray a subject's overall essence as opposed to its details.

Because of its eccentric methods, Pissarro's work was widely criticized in his time; he received little support from the art community during his lifetime.

Not until after his death did his paintings begin to sell for substantial amounts of money. However his work heavily influenced other artists including French Impressionists Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir and Paul Cézanne.

Most of Pissarro's work featured in the BMA exhibit depicts the artist's hometown of Pontoise, landscapes from the French countryside and urban life in places like Montmartre.

The show begins with his earlier, more conventional Salon paintings including *Côte des Jalais*, *Pontoise* (1867), and continues with his bolder, less formal works. Three of his five paintings from the very first Impressionist exhibit in 1874 will be on display. These works, which foreshadow Pissarro's even more experimental art to come,



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.BIBLIO.ORG](http://www.biblio.org)
One of Pissarro's most celebrated images: a sunlight-bathed Rouen Cathedral.

are *Orchard in Bloom* (1872), *The Chestnut Trees at Osn* (c. 1873) and *Hoarfrost at Ennery* (1873).

BMA curator Katy Rothkop and her colleagues have devoted many hours to bringing Pissarro to Baltimore, but the exhibit is not permanent. Once the exhibition closes in May, it will pack up and go on the road to other cities. Pissarro will spend the summer in Milwaukee before moving on to Tennessee's Memphis Brooks Museum of Art for the fall.

Pissarro: Creating the Impres-

sionist Landscape will be open at the BMA from Feb. 11 until May 17, 2007. This exhibit is a special ticketed event and also features an audio tour. Tickets can be purchased online at <http://www.tickets.com> or through the BMA Box Office.

For more information call (443) 573-1700 or visit <http://www.art-bma.org>.

— Alex Vockroth

Help Wanted finds an apt audience in college students

One of the most highly anticipated productions to hit Baltimore's CENTERSTAGE this season is sure to resonate deeply in the souls of college students, especially those who will soon be forced to relinquish the relative comfort of the security blanket of college and enter the cold, unyielding working world. The play is called *Help Wanted: A Personal Search for Meaningful Employment at the Start of the 21st Century*, and it is the first full-length monologue by writer and performer Josh Lefkowitz. The show actually appeared several years ago in Baltimore as part of CENTERSTAGE's First Look: Special Edition 2004-05. Now that Lefkowitz has performed the hit show in New York, Chicago and Washington, D.C., *Help Wanted* is returning to Baltimore and CENTERSTAGE for a three-week run.

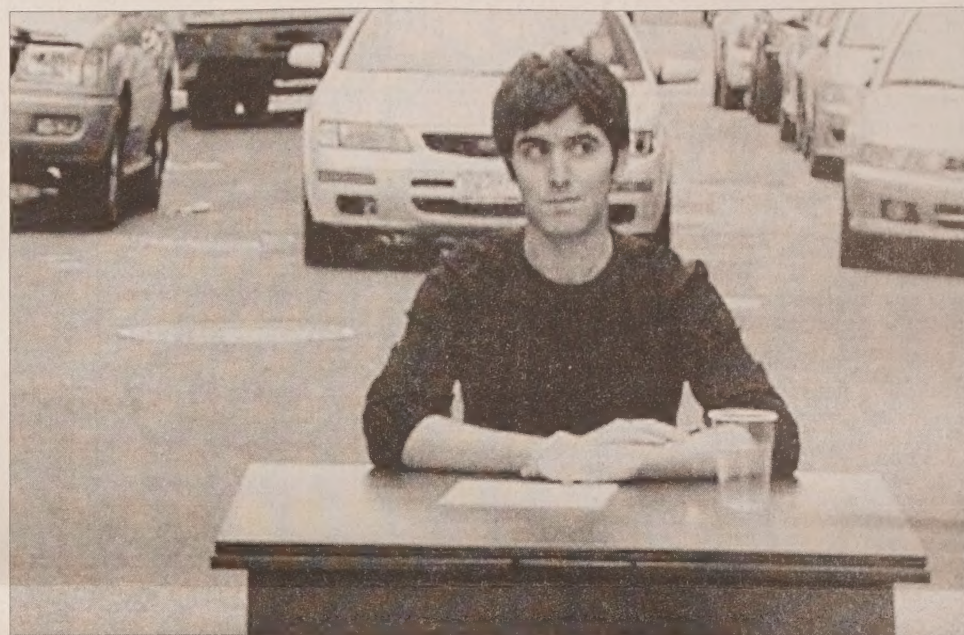
Help Wanted is a one-man show that delves into the daily struggles of being a young adult today. It spans the first six months of Lefkowitz's post-college life as he is faced with dead-end jobs and other hardships. The style is reminiscent of actor and playwright Spalding Gray who was best known for his full-length performance monologues and was a major idol for Lefkowitz. The show has garnered stellar reviews from the likes of the *Washington Post* and the *Chicago Sun-Times*. Lefkowitz's play has been praised for its quick wit, smart humor and sharp observations.

Despite Lefkowitz's self-deprecating tales of career woe and the fact that he is only 25 years old, he is already remarkably accomplished. In addition to the continued success of *Help Wanted*, he has worked as an associate art-

ist at the Atlantic Center for the Arts, appeared in numerous theater productions across the country (including the well-received Fall 2006 production of *Sweeney Todd* at CENTERSTAGE) and published stories in various print and online journals. He has even crossed over into radio by reading personal essays on NPR. So impressed by this list of accomplishments was the D.C. Commission on the Arts & Humanities that they awarded Lefkowitz a Young Artist grant to allow him to further pursue his interests.

Help Wanted will run at CENTERSTAGE from this evening through Feb. 17. Tickets are general admission and can be purchased at the door, online at <http://www.centerstage.org> or by calling the box office at (410-332-0033).

— Alex Vockroth



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.THEATERMANIA.COM](http://www.theatermania.com)

Writer and performer Josh Lefkowitz performs a nationally acclaimed show about life after college this month at Centerstage.

Concerts and Clubs

Thursday, January 25

8 p.m. **Even So, The Making and Vote Quimby** perform at the Ottobar. For more information visit <http://www.theottobar.com>.

9 p.m. **Charles FeelGood** plays with **Scottie B** at Sonar. For more information visit <http://www.sonar.us>.

music? Head over to Ram's Head Live for **Mr. Greengenes**. For more information visit <http://www.ramsheadlive.com>.

8 p.m. **Beatlemania Now**, a chronological cover show of the Beatles' greatest hits from 1964 to the band's demise will be performed at the Lyric Opera House tonight. For more information visit <http://www.lyricoperahouse.com>.

cover and drinks all night (\$10 after 10 p.m.). For more information visit <http://www.iguanaabaltimore.com>.

Saturday, January 27

1 p.m. Sonar puts on the second annual **Maryland Metal and Hardcore Festival**. The Festival will feature Out to Win, Full Blown Chaos, The Burning Season and Shipwreck. For more in-

ditional Japanese folk music and experimental improvisation will be performing at the Red Room. For more information visit <http://www.redroom.org>.

9 p.m. **Girlfriend in a Coma** plays a tribute to the Smiths and Morrissey with The Heavycoats and The Opposite Sex. For more information visit <http://www.theottobar.com>.

9 p.m. **The Aquarium and The Hold Up** play at the Black Cat. For more information visit <http://www.blackcatdc.com>.

Wednesday, January 31

9 p.m. The Black Cat presents **Andy Zipf and Shapiro**. For more information visit <http://www.blackcatdc.com>.

with Emery, Scary Kids Scaring Kids and A Static Lullaby. For more information visit <http://www.930.com>.

7 p.m. Rock and Roll Hall of Famer **Isaac Hayes** will be playing with **Russell Taylor** at Ram's Head Live. For more information visit <http://www.ramsheadlive.com>.

8 p.m. Ready for a night of pain? **Misery Index, Pulling Teeth and Fighting Dogs** go all out at the Ottobar. For more information visit <http://www.theottobar.com>.

Compiled by Alena Geffner

Sunday, January 28

7 p.m. Looking for a few laughs? **Whoopi Goldberg** will be at the DAR Constitution Hall. For more information visit <http://www.dar.org/conthall>.

7:30 p.m. **Beres Hammond and Marcia Griffiths** will be playing with Leon & The Peoples Band at the 9:30 Club. The band will be playing as part of the For the Love of It Tour. For more information visit <http://www.930.com>.

10 p.m. Latin Night at **Iguana Cantina!** Live radio DJ spinning the best salsa and dance music, and \$10 buckets of Corona! For more information visit <http://www.iguanaabaltimore.com>.

Monday, January 29

8 p.m. 98 Rock presents **Noise in the Basement** featuring Matt Davis. For more information visit <http://www.fletchersbar.com>.

Tuesday, January 30

8 p.m. 98 Rock presents the **Sno-Core Tour of '07** at Recher Theatre. The tour features Army of Anyone with Robert and Dean DeLeo from Stone Temple Pilots and Richard Patrick from Filter. For more information visit <http://www.rechertheatre.com>.

formation visit <http://www.sonar.us>.

7:30 p.m. **Pasadena** will be holding their CD release party at Sonar with **Opposable Thumbs** and **Earthtone**. For more information visit <http://www.sonar.us>.

8:30 p.m. **Kioku**, a fusion of tra-

Friday, January 26

8 p.m. **Turbo AC's** speed up the Ottobar with **The Dwarves** and **Tenwatch**. For more information visit <http://www.theottobar.com>.

8 p.m. In the mood for party

8:30 p.m. **Jimmie's Chicken Shack** will be playing at Recher Theatre with **Minus One** and **Purlington Drive**. For more information visit <http://www.rechertheatre.com>.

10 p.m. **Iguana Cantina** will have a Ladies Night tonight; arrive before 10 p.m. and pay only \$5 for



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.PRWEB.COM](http://www.prweb.com)

Thursday night partiers will flock to listen to DJ Charles FeelGood, who is spinning all the hot tunes with Scottie B at Sonar.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.LIBERTATEDRECORDS.COM](http://www.libertatedrecords.com)

Music legend and Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Isaac Hayes at Ram's Head this week.

CALENDAR

D.C. puts on its Red Jumpsuits

The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus will headline at Washington, D.C.'s 9:30 Club this Friday with Emery, Scary Kids Scaring Kids, A Static Lulaby and Kaddisfly at 6 p.m. Hailing from Middleburg, Fla., The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus has grown in popularity since its inception in 2003 for its unique blend of alternative and post-hardcore music styles. Both their EP, *Ass Shaker/Justify/Face Down*, as well as their first LP, *Don't You Fake It*, were released in late 2006, entering the Billboard Top 200 at an impressive #25; soon after the release, the group achieved speedy success with the album quickly appearing on iTunes' daily top-10 chart of most-downloaded full albums.

Don't You Fake It was certified gold in late November of last year as having sold more than half a million copies. A large part of the 2006 album sales success The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, consisting of frontman Ronnie Winter on lead vocals, Elias Reidy and Duke Kitchens on guitar, Joey Westwood on bass and Jon Wilkes drums, achieved in 2006 was attributed to the group's first single and video, "Face Down."

Generating 7.7 million audio streams on *MySpace.com*, the song is a moving indictment of domestic abuse and has resonated universally. Winter has noted that the song is particularly important to the band because in rural Florida, where they grew up, domestic violence is ubiquitous. "Where I come from, you see it when you go to the store, you see it when you stop for a smoke, you see it all the time. It's something ev-



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.REDJUMPSUIT.COM](http://www.redjumpsuit.com)
Red Jumpsuit Apparatus brings their successful sound to the 9:30 Club this Friday.

erybody sees and doesn't do anything about because they're just so accustomed to it," Winter said. He grew up in an extremely violent home. In terms of other tracks, the cantankerous "Seventeen Ain't So Sweet" immortalizes a young, extremely talented female friend who hasn't been able to make it in music because she does not look physically desirable.

Many fans have wondered about the origins of the band's unusual name. When asked recently by *Pure Volume*, lead singer Ronnie Winter confessed that it was "100 percent completely arbitrary" and said that upon the band's inception, the members

were much more interested in creating music than coming up with an intelligent name. Guitarist Reidy added that he thought that it was "funny when bands scramble their brains to try and come up with some unique untouchable band name ... why waste time thinking of something when we could be concentrating on music instead?" Thanks to these efforts, mainstream success seems to be imminent: RJA recently announced that they will perform as part of this summer's Warped Tour.

—Yasin Akbari

Campus Events

Thursday, January 25

5 p.m. The Digital Media Center presents the opening of **Zero to 3600**, a joint JHU and MICA project. Artists chose a section of North Charles Street between

Baltimore Street and University Avenue to use as the basis for their artwork. The event will take place in the Mattin Center. For more information contact Joan Freedman at (410) 516-3817.

6 p.m. **A SAC General Meeting** will take place at the Mattin Center room 161. For more information e-mail sacexec@jhu.edu.

Friday, January 26

2 p.m. **Cooking 4 Love** cooks and serves hot meals for a homeless shelter in downtown Baltimore. They welcome anyone who's interested in helping out to come to the Interfaith Center. For more information e-mail sherian@jhu.edu.

edu.

5 p.m. The **National Aquarium in Baltimore** offers a discounted admission of \$5 every Friday after 5 p.m. The discounted admission is a great deal, so don't pass it up! Even if you have been down to the aquarium before, head down to check out the dolphin show. For more information, including hours of operation, group discounts and directions, call (410) 566-3845.

8 p.m. The **Maryland Space Grant Observatory** located in Bloomberg offers you a free chance to look at the solar system with its telescopes, weather permitting. Call (410) 516-6525 for weather updates and observing conditions before you hike up to Bloomberg.

10 p.m. **Coffee Grounds** takes place every Friday night in Nolan's in Charles Commons. Come out for the free Krispy Kreme doughnuts and coffee, and stay for the fun evening activity.

Saturday, January 27

9 p.m. Hopkins' only improv comedy troupe, **The Buttered Niblets** perform with the Princeton Quipfires in Arellano. Tickets are free! For more information visit <http://www.butteredniblets.onyx.com>.

Sunday, January 28

5:30 p.m. The **Shriver Hall Concerts** present Lynn Harrell on the cello and Victor Santiago Asuncion on the piano. They will be performing selections from Beethoven, Franck and Debussy. Tickets are \$17 for students. For more information visit <http://www.shriverconcerts.org/index.php>.

Tuesday, January 30

6:30 p.m. **Stressbusters** will be giving free massages at the HOP Stop. For more information call (410) 516-8209.

Wednesday, January 31

12 p.m. Hugh McDonald of the DAC Planning Group will present the **College Tuition Survival Guide**, essential for the many

MOVIE OPENING

Catch and Release

Movie debuting at the Hoyts West Nursery Cinema 14 this Friday

Showtimes: 12:50 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 6:55 p.m., 9:55 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF: [HTTP://WWW.MOVIEPHONE.COM](http://www.moviephone.com)
In *Catch and Release*, Jennifer Garner, best known for her leading role on TV's *Alias*, deals with the tragic death of her husband and unearthing secrets he kept from her while trying to rebuild her life.

Hopkins undergraduates already thinking about how they will pay back all those loans. The talk will take place on the Homewood Campus, building TBA. For more information e-mail Tovey Dixon at tdixon4@jhu.edu.

Theatre. For more information visit <http://www.jhu.edu/witness>.

—Compiled by Alena Geffner Muhlsten

Thursday, February 1

12 p.m. There will be an **Art Munch** for Baltimore artist Tony Shore in the Mattin Center. Admission is free.

8 p.m. **Witness Theater** presents *Let it Snow* by Mitch Frank. The show is directed by Leigh Liberman and will be in the Swirnow

Got an Event?

Send details about future events including date, time, location and a brief summary of the event to events@jhunewsletter.com. Please e-mail all events the Monday before publication.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.KHANTANZL.ORG](http://www.khantanzl.org)
Avid yachters and sailors will undoubtedly be thrilled with the new models being demonstrated at the Baltimore Boat Convention.

BARGAIN EVENTS

Free
Record Swap

\$5 to \$10
Baltimore Boat Convention

\$10 to \$25+
Swing Dancing

Are you into records? Even if you're just a casual observer, be sure to head over to Charm City Art Space's Record Swap on Jan. 28 from 12 to 4 p.m. They'll have records of all types — punk, hardcore, pop, comedy and everything else. People can buy, trade, or sell records. Charm City Art Space is located at 1729 Maryland Ave. For more information e-mail bachmanjohn@hotmail.com.

The Baltimore Convention Center will be hosting the Baltimore Boat Show. They'll have over 500 boats of all different styles. They'll also have special wakeboard demonstrations and virtual video games. Admission is \$10. The Convention Center is located at 1 Pratt St. and is ongoing until Jan. 28. For more information visit <http://www.baltimoreboatshow.com>.

The Avalon Studio will be hosting a swing dancing night on Jan. 27. The evening includes a swing dancing lesson from 8 to 9 p.m. followed by open dancing until midnight. Admission is \$16 per couple. No dance partner is necessary and casual attire is accepted. For more information visit <http://www.avalondance.com>.

—Alena Geffner Muhlsten

Exposure

By Shiv Ghandi



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